

Agricultural Outlook

AO-44 June 1979

U.S. Department of Agriculture
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Outlook in Brief

The world demand for grains continued to strengthen during May. This reflected increased exports interest in corn, wheat, and rice and higher market prices. Stronger grain prices will raise 1979 cash receipts for crops to \$59 billion, \$1 billion above the March 1979 forecast.

U.S. agricultural exports are expected to reach a record \$32 billion during the year ending September 30, 1979, 17 percent above the previous fiscal year. The agricultural trade surplus is expected to be \$16 billion.

Wheat in the farmer-owned reserve became eligible for redemption and sale on May 16, 1979. This occurred when the average farm price of wheat exceeded the release price of \$3.29 a bushel.

Farmer participation in the wheat and feed grains programs is expected to decline this year. The signups indicated a likely combined set-aside of 22.1 million acres, versus 23.5 acres last year.

Cold weather and wet fields delayed spring planting in most major grain areas of the Northern Hemisphere. However, planting progressed rapidly when conditions became favorable for field work in the second half of May. By late May, planting progress in the major Northern Hemisphere grain areas was near normal. Except for spring wheat, progress in the United States is now about equal to the most recent 5-year average.

Prospects for 1979 crops depend heavily on the weather worldwide. A favorable growing season (defined in terms of higher than trend-level yields) implies substantial increases in production of all major U.S. crops except corn. Crop production under this scenario would likely exceed prospective use, and lead to further buildup in stocks. Total meat production in 1980 would continue to rise, stimulated by low-cost feed.

If weather conditions are unfavorable corn production could be reduced substantially from 1978 levels. Production of soybeans and wheat would also drop, but cotton output would still rise from last season's poor crop. However, poor crops

overseas would stimulate demand for U.S. exports, raise prices and discourage domestic use. Ending stocks would be reduced for all major crops. Costs and prices would decline and meat production would be only a little larger than in 1979.

Livestock cash receipts are now expected to be \$70 billion in 1979. This forecast is \$2 billion higher than appeared likely last month mainly because of continued strong prices for cattle.

Farm production expenses will increase more than anticipated because of higher prices for inputs, especially fuel and feeder cattle. The current forecast is for production expenses of \$110 to \$114 billion.

The current forecast is for 1979 net farm income to range between \$31 and \$33 billion; indications suggest it will be near \$32 billion. This is a \$1-billion increase over the estimate last month and near the record of 1973.

The composite index of leading economic indicators declined a record 3.3 percent in April, the fourth decline in the past 6 months.

Some of the major economic indicators declined in April, while others showed small gains. It is unclear whether this indicates weakness in the economy or reflects the influence of temporary factors such as work stoppages resulting from the Teamsters' strike and floods. However, the latest consensus forecast is for small declines in growth of real GNP in the final two quarters of 1979.

While stronger demand has boosted income prospects, it has also provided the environment for unexpected upward pressure on food prices, particularly for meats in the first 4 months of 1979. Farm to retail spreads for beef and pork have increased sharply beyond the levels which would be consistent with the cost structure and normal returns for the industry. If this situation persists, it seems likely that the average increase in retail food prices in 1979 will exceed the current 10 percent forecast. If spreads return to more normal historical levels and the easing in farm prices of live-

stock products expected in coming months is passed through to retail, the increase in 1979 retail food prices would be closer to 10 percent.

Food expenditures are expected to increase corresponding to the 2.5-percent gain expected for disposable personal income when adjusted for inflation. This increase is still expected despite signs of a slowdown in consumer spending and the overall economy.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for food increased 1.0 percent from March to April on a seasonally adjusted basis. This reflects a 1.0-percent increase for food at home and 0.8-percent increase for food away from home. The April increase brought the all-food index to a level 12 percent higher than in April 1978.

Beef prices in April continued to rise (4.1 percent), even though cattle prices have been relatively stable for the past 2 months. However, pork prices fell and poultry prices showed no change. Increased production of these may begin to affect the retail markets in coming months.

On an unadjusted basis, food at home increased 0.8 percent in April. The farm value of the market basket (domestically produced foods) fell 0.5 percent. The farm-to-retail price spread increased 1.6 percent, enough to not only offset the farm value decline, but also to account for 80 percent of the April food price increase.

The costs of food processing and marketing will remain the primary source of food price increases in the months ahead. Fish and imported foods, which increased 0.6 percent, accounted for 20 percent of the April food price increase.

Farm commodity prices have begun to moderate. Further seasonal declines are likely as the harvest season approaches. The April Index of Prices Received by Farmers declined 1 percent, the first decline since last November. While the May Index increased 3/4 percent from April, farm commodity prices are not expected to contribute significantly to further food price rises during the remainder of the year.



General Economy

Real growth of the U.S. economy is expected to slow this year from the 4.0 percent annual rate in 1978. The latest consensus forecast is for a 3.5 percent increase in real gross national product (GNP) in the second quarter following the meager 0.4 percent growth rate in the first quarter. Small declines between 1 and 2 percent—are projected for the final two quarters, with recovery beginning in early 1980. The consensus is for real GNP to be about 2.5 percent above 1978.

Economy Slows in April

The index of leading economic indicators declined a record 3.3 percent in April. This was the fourth drop in the past 6 months. Some of the major indicators also declined during the month; others showed only slight gains. The work stoppages resulting from the Teamsters' strike, and the spring floods during the month make it difficult to determine the pace of economic activity.

Total employment fell significantly in April and industrial production declined 1 percent (seasonally adjusted). Personal income and retail sales declined slightly after adjustment for inflation.

Housing starts declined 2.1 percent from March to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.75 million units. Starts have been sluggish for the first 4 months of 1979, and for the period were 13 percent below a year ago. Building permits, an indicator of future construction activity, also declined. Sizable

outflows from the savings accounts in thrift institutions occurred in April as interest rates continued to rise in the open market. Should this trend continue, the housing industry could be adversely affected.

The Producer (PPI) and Consumer Price Indexes (CPI) continued to indicate inflation at double-digit annual rates in April. Several private forecasters expect the high rate of inflation to continue.

Real Domestic Income and Demand To Ease

Consumer income, a key factor in the demand for food and agricultural products, is expected to increase modestly this year. One measure, disposable personal income per capita, is projected to increase 2.5 percent this year after adjustment for inflation. Last year it increased 3.5 percent.

Thus, the rise in total domestic demand, after adjustment for inflation, is expected to moderate this year. The real demand for food and fiber products will also increase less this year than in 1978 but it will slow less than total demand. Real food purchases for the year as a whole are expected to increase by an amount corresponding to the rise in real consumer income, even though real expenditures for food declined during the first quarter.

In addition, foreign demand for U.S. food and fiber will continue strong. Export estimates for 1978/79 have recently been revised upward for wheat, corn, and rice.

Consumer Expenditures Weaken

Real consumer spending increased only slightly during the first quarter of 1979. This is in contrast to the sizable gain (7.7 percent annual rate) in the previous quarter. Real expenditures for consumer goods, including food and fiber products, declined from the final quarter of last year. Small-car sales, however, expanded vigorously in response to higher gasoline prices. Also,

expenditures increased for products in energy-related categories, namely gasoline, fuel oil, and coal.

Real expenditures for services, which are usually less responsive to short-term price and income fluctuations, expanded at an annual rate of 5.2 percent during the first quarter, compared with 3.1 percent in the final quarter of last year. Real expenditures for food away from home during the January-March period increased at a strong 3.4 percent annual rate.

Inflation Reduces Real Income

The slowdown in real consumer spending reflected concerns by consumers about the impact of inflation on real incomes. Real disposable personal income rose at a 2.9 percent annual rate in the first quarter, about half the fourth quarter increase. Likewise, the increase in real per capita disposable income slowed to an annual rate of 2.1 percent, down from the 5.2 percent in the previous quarter.

The slower real income growth in this year's first quarter was caused to a considerable extent by the high rate of inflation—the Consumer Price Index rose at a 13 percent annual rate from December to March. This high rate of inflation offset the expansionary effects of strong employment gains and the tax cut.

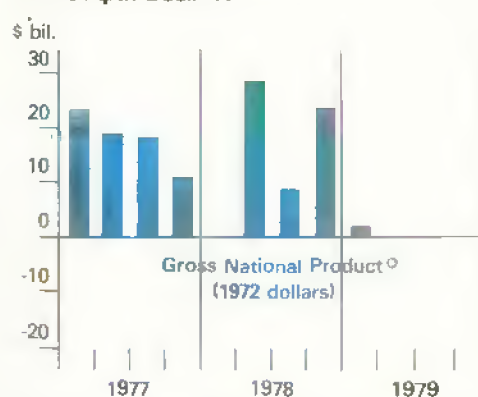
Another factor contributing to the weakness of consumer spending was the increase in personal savings. Savings as a percent of disposable personal income in the first-quarter was 5.4 percent, up significantly from the near-record low of 4.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 1978. This increase represented a deliberate slowdown in spending by consumers from the large purchases in the 1978 Christmas buying season and was compounded by first-quarter severe winter weather.

Business Expenditures Up Moderately

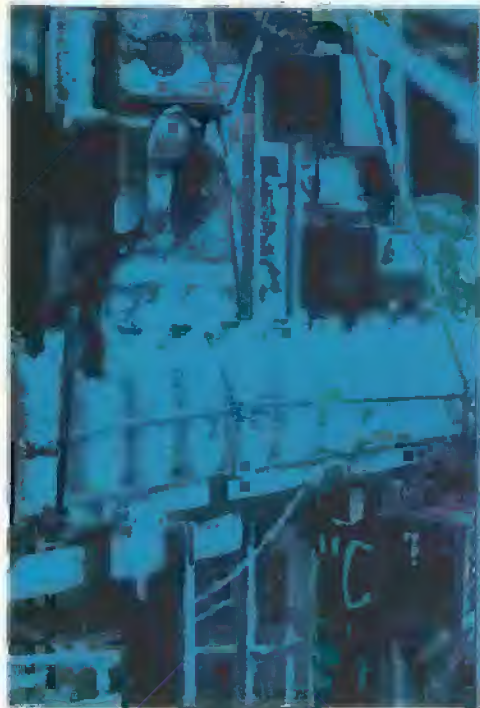
Business spending in real terms (excluding inventories) rose at an annual rate of 5.3 percent during the first quarter. Expenditures for producers' durable equipment advanced about 12 percent, with much of the gain coming from motor vehicle purchases. Construction expenditures, on the other hand, declined 8 percent largely because of the weather.

Real inventory investment rose a strong \$11.2 billion during January-March, compared with a rise of \$8.2 billion in the previous period. A further rise is expected in April-June as inflationary expectations encourage firms to stockpile parts and materials.

Real Output Declines



Change from previous quarter. Seasonally adjusted annual rate.



Food and Marketing

Stronger demand has provided the environment for unexpected upward pressure on food prices, particularly for meats in the first 4 months of 1979.

Farm-to-retail spreads for beef and pork have increased sharply beyond the levels which would be consistent with the cost structure and normal returns for the industry. If this situation persists, it seems likely that the average increase in retail food prices in 1979 will exceed the current 10 percent forecast.

If spreads return to more normal historical levels and the easing in farm prices of livestock products expected in coming months is passed through to retail, the increase in 1979 retail food prices could average around 10 percent.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for food increased 1.0 percent from March to April on a seasonally adjusted basis. This reflects a 1.0-percent increase for food at home and a 0.8-percent increase for food away from home. The April increase brought the all-food index to a level 12 percent higher than in April 1978.

Beef prices in April continued to rise (4.1 percent), even though cattle prices have been relatively stable for the past 2 months. However, pork prices fell and poultry prices showed no change. Increased production of these should bring lower prices in the retail markets in coming months.

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Fish and imported foods, which rose 0.6 percent, accounted for 20 percent of the April food price increase.

Marketing Costs Primary Source of Future Price Hikes

The costs of food processing and marketing will be the primary source of food price increases in the months ahead. Farm commodity prices have begun to moderate and further seasonal declines are likely as the harvest season approaches.

Farm prices' relative contribution to food price increases will continue lower than during the first quarter. Unless marketing margins continue as high as in April, we should be entering a period where food price increases will be more moderate than the first quarter.

The recent contract settlement between the Teamsters and the trucking industry has been approved by the various locals. But the strike by the United Farm Workers has now moved into the Salinas Valley. And, depending upon its length, that strike could affect marketing the summer fresh vegetable

crop. The bargaining between the Cannery Teamsters Council and California fruit and vegetable processors has been slow. Contracts for meat cutters and the retail clerks are among the important labor agreements yet to be negotiated this year.

Labor Costs Continue Climbing

Labor costs¹ in food marketing have increased an average of 10.2 percent per year over the past 5 years and a further increase of 10 to 11 percent seems likely in 1979.

This year's projected rise of 10 to 11 percent may not be inconsistent with the wage standard of 7 percent for new wage settlements to reduce inflation established in November 1978 by the Council on Wage and Price Stability. In addition to new wage settlements, labor costs are affected by deferred wage increases from previous settlements, cost-of-living adjustments to wages (COLA), higher nonwage employer costs such as social security and health insurance benefits, and growth in total manhours worked in food marketing establishments.

The major factors contributing to higher labor costs are:

- rising hourly earnings,
- higher minimum wages,
- growth in employee benefits,
- slow productivity growth, and
- more hours worked.

Labor accounted for 47 percent of the total food marketing costs in 1978.

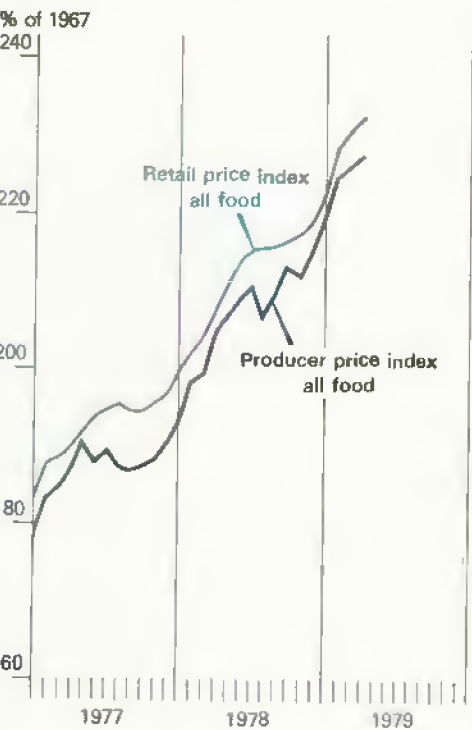
Hourly Earnings Increase

Higher wages coupled with slow growth in productivity were mainly responsible for the upward trend in labor costs over the last 5 years, and will continue to push labor costs higher in 1979. Between 1973 and 1978, hourly earnings of employees of food stores, food wholesalers, food manufacturers, and eating places increased an average of 8.4 percent annually, slightly more than the 8 percent annual average rise in prices for all items in the Consumer Price Index.

Hourly earnings rose the most in retailing, 9.2 percent, partly because COLA provisions are more prevalent in union contracts for food retailing workers.

¹ Labor costs include wages, salaries, and benefits for employees of food processing, wholesaling, retailing, and public eating establishments.

Food Prices Increase



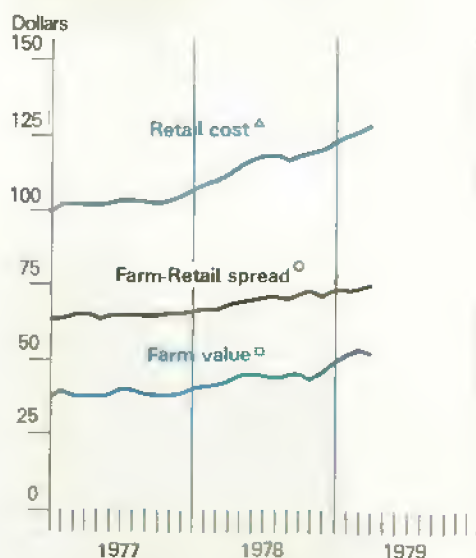
New Labor Contracts To Be Negotiated Could Boost Costs

The bargaining agenda for 1979 is much larger than it was last year or will be in 1980. Wage contracts affecting 430,000 food industry workers will be renegotiated in 1979. The contracts are mainly in food retailing with retail clerks and meatcutters, and in food processing with meatpacking and fruits and vegetable processing employees. While wages of only one-fifth of food industry workers are determined by collective bargaining, union wage settlements often affect wages of other workers.

For example, negotiations will occur this summer on a new master agreement between the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workman and major meatpackers. This agreement will determine wages and benefits for 80 to 85 percent of meat industry workers. Under the existing contract, wages of common laborers increased from \$6.17 per hour in July of 1976 to \$7.85 per hour as of January 1979, or 27 percent.

Union labor agreements negotiated this year with food retailers and food processors will have their largest impact on food marketing costs in the second half of 1979 and the first half of 1980. The largest number of settlements will occur in the second and third quarter of 1979. Additional impact on costs can be expected because wage settlements typically call for largest wage increases for the first year of a new

Marketing Charges Boost Food Costs in April



Δ For a market basket of domestically produced farm foods costing \$100 at retail in January 1977.

○ Charge for assembling, processing, transporting, and distributing these foods. □ Payment to farmer for quantity of farm product equivalent to retail unit.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS BY TYPE OF PAYMENT AND INDUSTRY

Type of payment	Food, beverage, and tobacco manufacturers			Retail and wholesale trade		
	1967	1977	Change	1967	1977	Change
	Dollars per hour		Percent	Dollars per hour		Percent
Total compensation	3.36	6.98	108	2.97	6.55	120
Pay for time worked	2.55	4.92	93	2.37	4.87	105
Total benefits .....	.81	2.06	154	.60	1.68	180
Legally required payments by employer (social security, unemployment compensation, and so forth) .....	.19	.55	189	.16	.50	212
Pensions, insurance, and other agreed upon payments by employer .....	.23	.72	213	.15	.45	200
Payment for time not worked ¹ .....	.23	.49	113	.15	.38	153
Paid rest periods, lunch periods, and so forth .....	.11	.21	91	.07	.21	200
Profit sharing payments, bonuses and so forth .....	.05	.09	80	.07	.14	100

¹ Vacation, holidays, sick leave, and so forth.

Source: *Employee Benefits* a report published by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

contract. An examination of the terms of 17 3-year settlements in 1978 and 1979 covering over 142,000 workers showed a median pay increase for retail clerks and meatcutters of about 8 percent the first year and a total increase of about 23 percent over the life of the contracts.

Wages will also be higher this year because previous agreements provide for deferred increases averaging 5.9 percent for 433,000 workers in food retailing and 5.7 percent for 104,000 persons in food manufacturing. Food manufacturing workers covered by contracts without COLA clauses will receive wage increases averaging 6.4 percent versus 4.8 percent for workers with COLA clauses in contracts.

Continuing inflation will bring wage increases for workers protected by COLA clauses. In food retailing, 75 percent of the union members are covered by COLA's, while in food manufacturing only 36 percent are covered.

Minimum Wage Raised

The minimum wage was increased 9.4 percent in 1979 from \$2.65 per hour to \$2.90 per hour. Although this increase affects the wages of a large number of workers employed in public eating places, the direct impact on total costs of food marketing will be small since only a relatively small portion of the total food industry workers are earning minimum wages.

For example, when the minimum wage was raised in 1978, only 18 percent of the workers in public eating places received a pay increase to reach the new minimum.

However, increases in the minimum wage also may result in wage increases for many other workers to maintain pay differentials among various jobs.

Employee Benefits Grow

Employee benefits have been rising more rapidly than wages and salaries. Latest available data show that hourly employee benefit costs in the food, beverage, and tobacco industry rose 154 percent—from 81 cents in 1967 to \$2.06 in 1977—while wages for time worked increased 93 percent.

Employee benefit costs increased from 24.1 percent of total employee compensation in 1967 to 29.5 percent in 1977. Both the amount and growth rate of employee benefit costs are similar in food manufacturing to the average for all industries.

Employee benefit costs for all retail and wholesale trade, excluding department stores, have also risen at the same rate as all industries. However, they were a smaller proportion of total employee compensation—25.6 percent in 1977.

Much of the increase in the relative importance of employee benefits comes from increases in social security payroll taxes. From 1967 to 1979 the tax rate rose from 4.4 percent to 6.13 percent of earnings subject to tax, and the maximum taxable annual earnings increased from \$6,600 to \$22,900. Future increases are scheduled in both the tax rate and wage base.

Employment and Hours Increase

Hours worked in food marketing grew at an annual rate of 1.8 percent during the last 5 years. The hours worked will increase again this year and contribute to the increase in total labor costs.

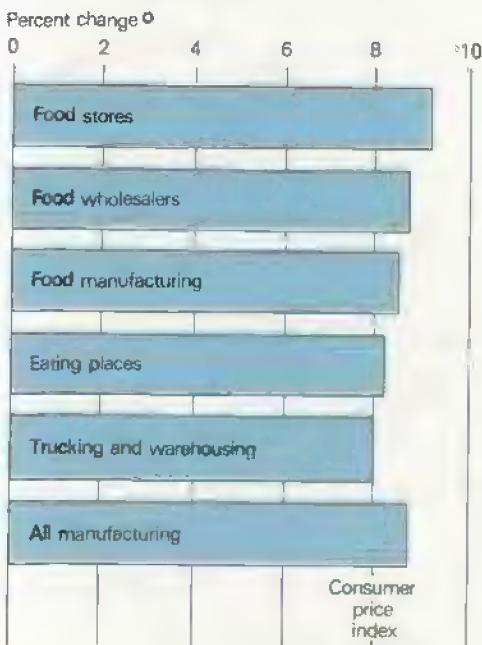
In food retailing, the hours worked have risen as a result of the trend toward Sunday openings, longer hours of operation during the week, and the growth of such service-oriented operations as store bake shops and delicatessens. In the food service industry the greater volume of food sold has also caused a rise in employment and hours of work.

Productivity Grows Slowly

Productivity growth in food marketing has been very slow since the early 1970's. Output per hour of labor input in industries primarily manufacturing domestically produced food increased 1 percent a year from 1972 to 1977. Productivity in retail food stores was 6 percent lower in 1977 than in 1972.

- The slow growth of productivity has resulted from many factors such as:
- Environmental and work safety rules which have redirected business investments
 - Higher energy prices which have made some equipment uneconomical or obsolete;
 - The reluctance of business to invest in new plant and equipment because of rising costs and lack of confidence in the economy;
 - Shifts to more services.

Average Hourly Earnings in the Food Industry Increased Faster Than Prices



◊Average annual changes in hourly earnings and consumer prices 1973-78.

Task Force Studies Wholesale Meat Pricing Practices

Because many questions recently have been raised about the use of market news quotations of wholesale meat prices as the basis for pricing meat, USDA recently chartered a task force to study meat pricing.

A mechanism for information gathering and reporting the wholesale prices of meat is not readily available because central markets for carcasses and cuts have never developed. Most are traded by phone on a one-to-one basis between packer salesmen and retail or institutional buyers, although some meat moves through brokers. Market prices are not easily observed; thus, the industry must rely heavily on market news reporting services.

Several market news services have developed to cover meat trading. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) reports meat trading in major metropolitan areas, such as Los Angeles and Omaha, and in some country areas near livestock production. The *National Provisioner*, a trade publication, founded its own daily market news service which publishes a report known as "the Yellow Sheet."

In addition, competing private market news service, the "Meat Sheet," entered the field recently. However, the meat industry continues to rely mostly on the Yellow Sheet for wholesale price information.

Forward contracting of meat supplies up to several weeks in advance is now commonplace. Meat delivered under these contracts is priced largely on the basis of the Yellow Sheet price on the day of delivery with an agreed premium or discount depending on location, quality and conditions of sale.

There have been a number of studies and investigations recently concerning meat pricing, including one by USDA on use of formula pricing by meatpackers and the degree of price variability during a given month. A survey of a sample of 35 meat packers for trading days in July 1977 indicated 70 percent of the carcass beef sold was traded using formula pricing. An analysis of prices showed monthly price fluctuations, but no significance was found between transaction prices and reported prices.

Questions regarding price reporting accuracy, appropriateness of sampling and alleged price manipulation by market participants still remained even after several reports had been issued by various groups, litigation initiated against industry firms, and USDA's own meat pricing report. So the decision was made to charter a task force to study meat pricing.

The task force was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to provide him with advice and factual information about improvements in marketing, pricing, and price reporting of meat at wholesale. The task force, which is composed of industry, consumer, and academic representatives, has completed public hearings held for the purpose of obtaining information about meat pricing problems.

This panel is reviewing all information available concerning alleged pricing problems, and a report with recommendations will be submitted to the Secretary in the near future. Highlights will be carried in a subsequent *Agricultural Outlook*.

National Food Review Rounds Out the Picture

If you want to know more about what's happening in the U.S. food system—beyond production and the marketing bill—the *National Food Review* is the place to find it. This information-filled publication brings together the latest USDA policy and research developments in the important areas of nutrition, food safety and quality, and food assistance.

Each issue is filled with up-to-date information on food marketing, consumers' opinions and habits, USDA actions, and food legislation. Check out the latest research on the availability, consumption, and price of food. And discover the important role American families—their size, composition, income, health, attitudes, and lifestyles—play in the food marketing system.

The *National Food Review* is issued quarterly and is free of charge. To get on the mailing list just send your name and address to *National Food Review*, ESCS Information, Room 482-GHI Building, 500 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250.



Agricultural Economy

Principal aspects of the outlook this month include:

- Strengthening demand and higher prices for grains.
- Prospective production, use, and prices for 1979 crops.
- Release of wheat in the farmer-owned reserve.
- Smaller set-aside program participation.
- Fuel situation.
- Higher input prices and production expenses.
- Upward revisions in 1979 farm income.

World Demand Strengthens For Grains; Prices Increase

World demand for grains has risen more than anticipated earlier. The strengthening has been reflected in larger exports of corn, wheat, and rice in the current marketing year which are expected to continue into 1979/80. The heavy demand for old-crop grains boosted market prices in May. Compared with April, prices at the farm increased 7 percent for wheat, 3 percent for corn, and 4 percent for barley.

Traders' response to production uncertainties because of the effect of the late spring on 1979/80 crop yields also influenced the market. Market prices can be expected to continue to vary considerably in response to new developments as the growing season progresses.

Cold weather and wet fields delayed planting this spring in most major grain areas of the Northern Hemisphere. However, because of great capacity of high-powered machinery, planting progressed rapidly when conditions were favorable for fieldwork.

Current indications suggest that most of the planting will have been completed by early June. The latest data before this issue went to press showed that by May 27, farmers had planted 89 percent of the corn and 76 percent of the cotton, which is about normal in relation to the most recent 5-year average. Only spring wheat was noticeably behind. Cold wet weather in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana delayed spring wheat the most.

Grain price forecasts for 1979/80 have been raised because of prospects for greater foreign use. Season-average farm prices are expected to range between \$2.20 to \$2.30 a bushel for corn, and \$2.80 to \$3.00 for wheat, if crops are large worldwide.

On the other hand, if the weather turns out to be generally unfavorable during 1979/80 and crops are small, average prices of \$2.90 to \$3.15 a bushel may be expected for corn and \$3.70 to \$3.90 for wheat. These ranges are higher by 10 to 15 cents a bushel for corn and 15 to 20 cents a bushel for wheat than appeared likely last month.

Prospects for 1979 Crops Depend Heavily on Weather

The forecast for 1979 U.S. crop production is presented in terms of ranges to reflect the uncertainties inherent in weather conditions worldwide.

Large Crop (Good Weather) Scenario: Favorable growing weather worldwide implies an increase in production for all major U.S. crops, except corn. Soybean production would increase 12 percent above 1978, wheat 15 percent, and cotton 33 percent.

With production large, domestic use would increase 7 percent for corn, 5 percent for soybeans, 7 percent for wheat, and 3 percent for cotton.

Good yields in foreign countries would reduce their import requirements and increase the competition for sales in world markets. The volume of U.S. wheat exports would decline 12 percent from 1978/79. However, world markets would still take about the same quantity of corn, 5 percent more soybeans, and 21 percent more cotton.

Crop production would likely exceed prospective use, causing stocks to build even

with expanding domestic use. Ending stocks of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton will be larger.

Total meat production in 1980 would rise because production of hogs and broilers would be stimulated by abundant low-cost feed.

Because of the expected strong export demand, prices received by farmers for corn likely would be slightly above target prices. Prices received for wheat would be below target prices, but above loan rates, and prices received for soybeans would stay well above the loan rate. Demand is so strong that much of the projected increases in U.S. production could still be absorbed.

Small Crop (Bad Weather) Scenario: Unfavorable growing weather worldwide implies that corn production would fall sharply, reflecting smaller yields on fewer acres. Production of soybeans and wheat would decline about 2 percent and 4 percent, respectively, but cotton output would rise 12 percent from last year.

Domestic use would be cut for most major crops, with corn off 5 percent from 1978/79, soybeans nearly 10 percent, wheat

U.S. CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS

Crop	Year of harvest			
	1979			
	1977	1978	Weather worldwide	
			Favor- able	Unfavor- able
Million bushels				
Corn				
Production	6,425	7,082	7,000	5,800
Domestic use . .	4,260	4,675	5,000	4,430
Exports	1,948	2,050	2,050	2,300
Ending stocks . .	1,104	1,462	1,413	533
Soybeans				
Production	1,762	1,843	2,070	1,800
Domestic use . .	1,104	1,089	1,145	985
Exports	700	775	815	835
Ending stocks . .	161	140	250	120
Wheat				
Production	2,036	1,799	2,075	1,735
Domestic use . .	849	852	913	807
Exports	1,124	1,200	1,050	1,300
Ending stocks . .	1,177	936	1,040	556
Million bales				
Cotton				
Production	14.4	10.9	14.6	12.2
Mill use	6.5	6.3	6.5	5.5
Exports	5.5	6.3	5.0	7.0
Ending stocks . .	5.3	3.7	6.9	3.5

Market prices, loan rates, and target prices for 1979 crops

	Soy-Corn	beans	Wheat	Cot-ton
	\$ per bu.		Cts. per lb.	
Season average price				
1977/78	2.02	5.88	2.33	52.3
1978/79	2.11	6.75	2.94	60.5 ¹
1979/80				
Favorable weather worldwide	2.20-2.30	5.75-6.75	2.80-3.00	² —
Unfavorable weather worldwide	2.90-3.15	8.00-10.00	3.70-3.90	² —
Loan rate	2.00	4.50	2.35	50.2
Target price	2.20	—	3.40	57.7

¹ Average to January 1, 1979. ² USDA is prohibited by law from projecting cotton prices.

5 percent, and cotton nearly 13 percent. However, poor crops overseas would stimulate U.S. exports. Therefore, corn exports would be up 13 percent, soybeans up 8 percent, wheat up 6 percent, and cotton up 11 percent.

Ending stocks would be reduced for all major crops with corn down the most. As a result, farm level prices would climb.

The relationship between production costs and prices would be less favorable to livestock and poultry producers suggesting meat production would be only a little larger in 1980 than in 1979.

Reserve Wheat Released

Wheat in the farmer-owned reserve was released for redemption and sale on May 16, 1979 when the average farm price for wheat exceeded \$3.29 a bushel. This action makes possible, but does not require, redemption of loans on the 411 million bushels of wheat currently in the reserve. The choice is up to individual farmers.

Wheat prices dropped 6 cents a bushel immediately after the announcement, but later recovered to previous levels, implying that producers have not been redeeming large quantities of wheat from the reserve.

Farmers who continue to store wheat in the reserve program will receive storage payments through June 29. If the release authorization remains in effect after June 29, future determinations of the reserve's release status and storage payments will be made by USDA.

Smaller Set-Aside Participation This Year

Participation in the wheat and feed grain programs will be less this year than last. Farmers have indicated they plan to set-aside or otherwise divert 22.1 million acres of cropland in 1979. In 1978, 23.5 million acres were allocated by farmers for these programs. This year 927,000 farms enrolled, 39.8 percent of the 2.3 million eligible. Last year 1.2 million farms enrolled.

This year's participation will include 10.6 million acres under the wheat program, 6.2 million acres under the feed grain program, 3.4 million acres voluntary diversion from corn and grain sorghum, and 1.2 million acres registered under the special wheat acreage grazing and hay program.

1979 Farm Income Forecast Revised Upward¹

The substantial increases in grain prices and continued strength in the cattle market are mainly responsible for an upward revision in the 1979 forecasts of cash receipts and net farm income. The current forecast is for 1979 net farm income to be between \$31 and \$33 billion. Net farm income is now expected to be close to \$32 billion. Last month the estimate was \$31 billion.

Production expenses are expected to rise about 15 percent in 1979 to range between \$107 to \$111 billion. While input use will increase slightly most of the rise will be caused by higher prices. Average prices paid by farmers for all items are expected to increase 12 to 14 over last year.

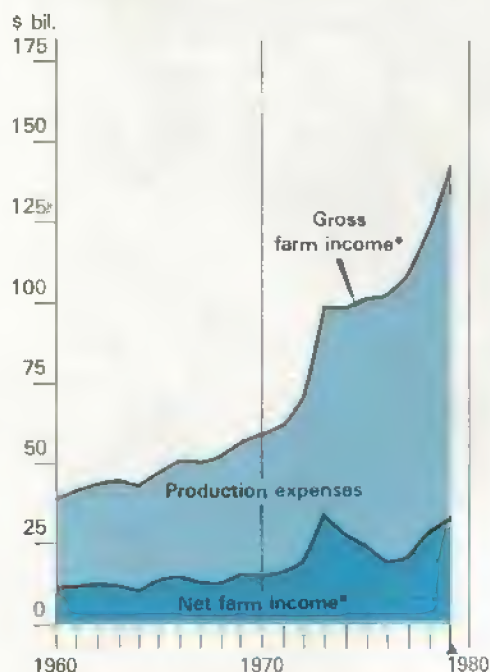
Cash receipts are now expected to range between \$128 and \$130 billion. The index of prices received by farmers for all farm commodities (1967=100) was 246 in May, less than 1 percent higher than in April and 14 percent higher than a year ago. The 1979 average will be considerably higher than in 1978 because of larger increases during the first 3 months.

Livestock cash receipts are expected to be close to \$70 billion, \$2 billion more than appeared likely a month ago chiefly because of expectations for continued strong cattle prices.

Crop receipts are forecast to total \$59 billion, \$2 billion higher than last month

¹ Aggregate measures of farm income are not indicative of the financial status of every farm operator. Individual circumstances differ considerably because all farm families do not share equally in off-farm income and net farm income varies according to commodities produced, debt position, farm size, distance from market, and local weather.

Net Farm Income Second Highest on Record



*Includes change in farm inventories.

▲ Forecast

reflecting the higher prices for grains discussed earlier.

Off-farm income should exceed last year's \$34 billion because of higher wage rates and continued heavy employment. Total family income of farm operators—net farm income plus off-farm income—should be around 10 percent larger.

Spot Shortages of Fuel Reported During May

Despite reports of spot shortages, a survey on May 11 showed no major fuel problems threatening agricultural production. Farm diesel fuel consumption during May was 16 percent above normal May usage as farmers caught up after planting delays. Diesel fuel allocations were reduced below May 1978 levels in 31 States. Allotments were between 70 and 80 percent of last May for five States, 80 to 90 percent for 10 States, and 90 to 100 percent for 16 States.

A Federal mandatory diesel allocation program was implemented May 11, which entitles farmers and others in food and agriculture to 100 percent of their requirements.

The supply situation for gasoline for farm use is less critical than for diesel fuel, but some spot shortages have been reported. Farm gasoline requirements are a smaller proportion of State gasoline allocations and mandatory allocation authority has existed for some time.



Commodity Highlights

Beef: Cattle on feed on May 1 were down 2 percent from a year earlier and net placements during April were down 3 percent. A 10-percent decline in fed cattle marketings during April suggests a backup of heavy cattle in feedlots which will likely be marketed before summer, at heavier weights. Beef production this spring and summer will continue much smaller than a year earlier, perhaps 10 to 12 percent.

The price of Choice beef at retail may average 25 to 30 percent higher this year than last. Retail beef and veal prices rose rapidly during last fall and winter, and rose around 4 percent from March to April.

Hogs: Pork production will increase about 10 percent during the second quarter. First quarter farrowings were up 16 percent and intentions for the second quarter suggest a 24-percent increase. Thus, pork production in the second half may be up 15 to 20 percent.

Market hog prices are currently in the mid-\$40's, about \$10 below the high in February. Retail pork prices are expected to decline 8 to 9 percent from the high levels at the start of the year and by the

fourth quarter may trail the year-earlier level by about 5 percent. For the entire year, though, the average price may still be up about 2 to 3 percent.

Eggs: Prices have declined sharply in recent weeks to 59 cents in mid-May. Carton egg prices for the April-June quarter will average around 66 cents a dozen, compared with 54 cents in 1978. A seasonal increase is likely when the rate of lay declines this summer and fall, and eggs probably will average 4 to 6 cents a dozen above the 65 cents of the second half of 1978.

Milk: Milk output is expected to remain near the 1978 level in coming months, while growth in commercial use is expected to slow. Surplus removals will be small, especially since this spring's seasonal rebuilding of commercial stocks likely will absorb more than typical quantities. Prices are expected to move significantly above support levels this summer, but the second-half seasonal rise probably will not exceed last year's increase, if the spring rebuilding of commercial stocks is as large as expected.

The production of milk and dairy products has remained in fairly close balance with use thus far in 1979. Milk output has been near a year earlier, while commercial use has continued to expand. Light seasonal purchases were made under the price support program after the April 1 adjustment brought the support price up to first-quarter market prices.

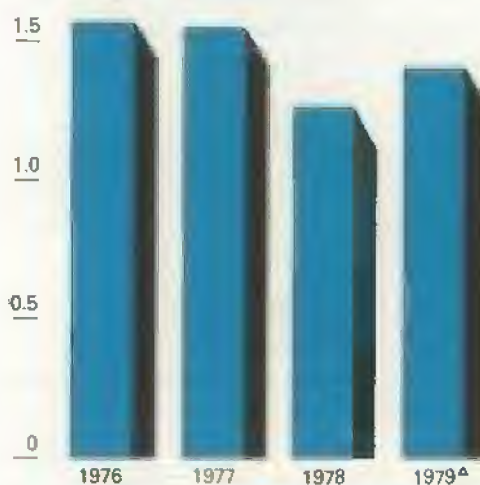
Corn: Current U.S. market prices of feed grains reflect strong demand coupled with a tightening of supplies not tied up in loan or reserve programs. Farm level prices in April averaged \$2.24 a bushel, up from the low of \$1.97 last fall. Some further price increase is likely, at least until new crop prospects begin to take shape this summer. But as long as weather poses no threat to the crop, price rises will be tempered by a pickup in loan redemptions, particularly in the western Corn Belt where loan activity is the heaviest.

Wheat: With the long delay in planting of Durum and Northern spring wheats coupled with strong export demand, wheat prices in mid-May increased significantly to a "computed" national average of \$3.31 per bushel. Consequently, USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation announced on May 16 that farmers could redeem their loans on wheat held in the farmer-owned reserve program. Prior to the release there were 400 million bushels of wheat in the reserve. During the first week of release, 14.4 million bushels moved out of the reserve. However, farmers' redemptions of the reserve are expected to be light since supplies of most classes of old-crop grain outside of the reserve are adequate to meet requirements, and the harvesting of new crop winter wheat is underway.

Wheat disappearance during June 1978-March 1979 exceed 1.7 billion bushels, about 10 percent above last year. Because of strong exports, total disappearance for 1978/79 will likely be a record, topping 2 billion bushels. Thus, yearend wheat stocks will decline for the first time in 5 years, and will be 20 percent below a year earlier.

Winter Wheat Output Expected to Rise in 1979

Bil. bu.
2.0



^Δ Indicated on May 1, 1979.

Soybeans: Unusually strong demand for soybeans and products this season has boosted farm level prices well above a year ago. Both soybean crushings and exports are record large and it now appears that total use may rise about 10 percent above the 1.7 billion bushels of last season. Carry-over stocks next September 1 may be about 20 million bushels below the 161 million of last September.

The season-average farm price for 1978-crop soybeans is estimated at \$6.75 a bushel, up nearly \$1 from 1977/78. Prices during the rest of the marketing year probably will average a little below \$7 a bushel, depending on U.S. soybean plantings and South American marketings this summer.

Cotton: The sizable acreage increase in prospect this year suggests the 1979 cotton crop should exceed this season's 10.8 million bales, and is likely to be in the 12¼ to 14½ million bale range.

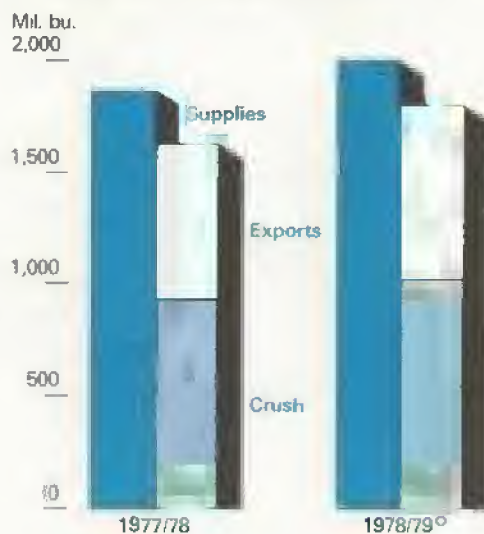
World cotton consumption may increase slightly in 1979/80, primarily in foreign countries. U.S. mill use could range between 5.5 and 6.5 million bales, depending on the size of the crop and general economic developments. Current season use is expected to be 6.3 million bales.

U.S. exports in 1979/80 could range from 5 to 7 million bales. Generally favorable growing conditions in the major foreign producing nations could limit our cotton to the lower end of the range, while generally unfavorable growing conditions, coupled with an expected low foreign carryover this August 1, could boost exports to the upper end of the range.

Although still very tentative, the early season outlook points to a rebuilding of world cotton stocks in 1979/80. The bulk of any such increase is likely to occur in the United States.

Potatoes: In response to the large crop and low prices last year, farmers plan to reduce 1979 potato acreage to 1.12 million acres, down 5 percent from the past two seasons. The largest cuts are expected in the Western States. A new report issued in May showed that the quantity of potatoes processed from September 1, 1978 to May 1, 1979 in seven major processing States totaled 91.0 million cwt. This included 12.7 million cwt. handled during April, when processors in the West stepped up activity in response to low potato prices.

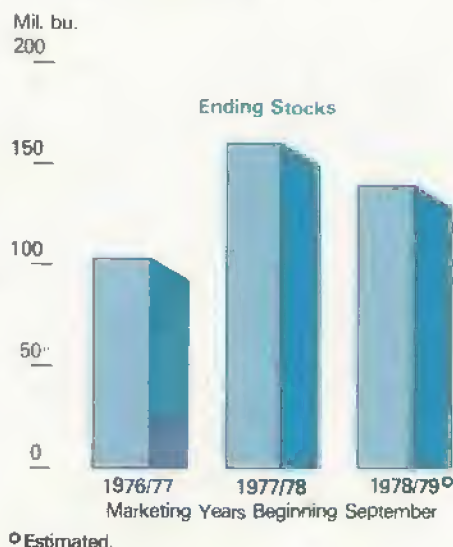
Strong Demand for Soybeans . . .



. . . Boosts Prices . . .



. . . Pulls Down Stocks



Peaches: The first forecast of the 1979 peach crop in the nine Southern States was for production to be 2 percent above 1978 and 17 percent larger than in 1977. Most of the increase is accounted for by South Carolina, the region's leader, with an estimated 8-percent gain from last year's large crop. A good growing season with no frost damage resulted in heavy fruit set.

The peach crop in these Southern States is sold predominantly in fresh market channels and accounts for well over one-third of U.S. fresh use. Harvest of early varieties commenced in mid-May. Even with a larger crop, early season prices received by growers are expected to be firm in view of the sharply smaller remaining supplies of citrus fruits. Prices will decline seasonally with increased volume but are likely to average above year-earlier levels.

Sugar: Based on a prospective 11-percent reduction in planted acreage, beet sugar production in 1979/80 will decline substantially from the 3.26 million short tons (raw value) this season. However, 1979/80 cane sugar production is expected to increase slightly from this season's 2.63 million short tons. Deliveries of refined sugar are expected to total 10.7 to 11.1 million short tons, very close to the 10.9 million short tons last year. Refined sugar deliveries for the first quarter were 6 percent ahead of the first quarter in 1978, but deliveries may only match the 1978 level during the rest of the year.

Tobacco: Auctions for the 1979 flue-cured crop are expected to begin in July, possibly in the second half of the month depending on crop maturity. Although price supports will average 7 percent higher this season, prices to growers may not change much due to an indicated weaker demand, both foreign and domestic.



World Agriculture and Trade

Strong global demand for food and fiber is expected to boost U.S. agricultural exports to a record \$32 billion in fiscal 1979 (October 1, 1978 to September 30, 1979), 17 percent above the previous fiscal year. Most of the \$5 billion in anticipated growth will come from higher prices. The U.S. agricultural trade surplus is expected to widen to about \$16 billion.

Volume To Top Last Year's

Shipments of major commodities through the first half of fiscal 1979 totaled 60 million tons, up from 55 million last year, when transportation bottlenecks reduced shipments. Soybean, rice, protein meal, and tobacco shipments increased the fastest during the first 6 months.

Export volume for the second 6 months currently is forecast to about match last year's level. Larger rice and feed grain volumes will be about offset by declines for wheat, protein meal, and other commodities.

Unit Values Increase

Export prices were significantly higher during October-March and are expected to remain above year-earlier levels in coming months. Unit values¹ for wheat, soybean

¹ A unit value is the value of exports divided by the volume of exports. Export value is based on selling price (or cost if not sold) and includes inland freight, insurance, and other charges to the port.

meal, meat, and tallow are all expected to be up 20 percent from fiscal 1978. Unit values are expected to increase over 10 percent for soybeans, 7 percent for corn, and 8 percent for tobacco. Values for raw cotton in October-March were 11 percent above the fiscal 1978 average.

Imports Increase

U.S. agricultural imports are expected to increase about 15 percent in fiscal 1979 to \$16 billion. Higher prices will account for most of the rise, but larger volumes are expected for many commodities.

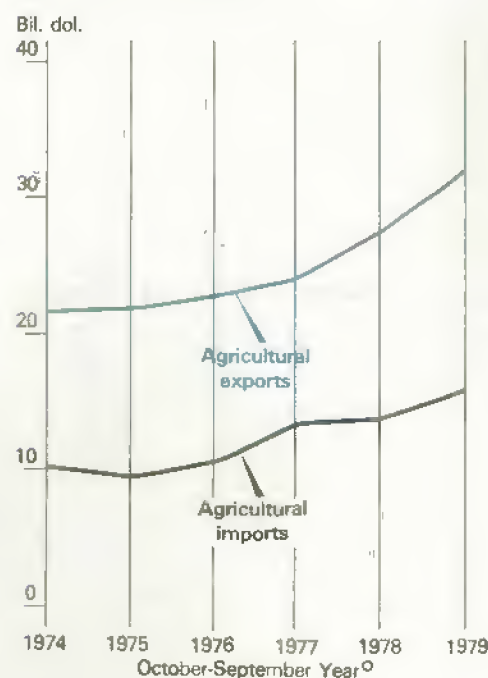
Meat imports are expected to increase 13 percent in volume and over 40 percent in value. Sugar imports (volume and value) are expected to increase significantly. While coffee imports may be up about 20 percent in volume, little change is expected in value. Volume gains are also likely for wine, tobacco, rubber, spices, and tea.

Exports to Most Major Areas Increase

Agricultural exports to the developed countries are expected to rise \$2 billion to \$17 billion. Demand for livestock feeds, animal products, fruits and nuts, and vegetables is increasing in these regions.

Exports to the centrally planned countries are expected to rise about 30 percent—\$1 billion—in fiscal 1979 with the biggest increase to China. Volume gains are also expected to Eastern Europe and the USSR.

U.S. Farm Export Expansion Continuing: Trade Balance Widens



^oEnding with year indicated.

Exports to the developing countries may increase almost 20 percent—nearly \$2 billion. Gains are expected to all regions, with the greatest expansion in East and Southeast Asia, Latin America, and West Asia.

Most Crops Share in Export Gains

Soybean exports are expected to top the fiscal 1978 record volume by over 2 million tons. Near-term demand for U.S. soybeans is expected to remain strong, in part because of a smaller than expected recovery in the 1979 Brazilian crop. Longer term demand for protein feeds is slated to increase because hog and poultry production likely will continue expanding abroad, particularly in West and East Europe and the high-income areas of Asia. Protein meal and vegetable oil exports, up significantly during October-March, are likely to slow in coming months. Fiscal 1979 shipments are expected to total near last year's volume.

Feed grain exports are now expected to increase 3 million tons in fiscal 1979, with China accounting for much of the increase. Foreign demand remains strong despite record-large world supplies. Exports to the USSR are now expected to approach last year's 11 million tons and shipments are expanding to East and Southeast Asia, Japan, and Eastern Europe.

Wheat export volume may decline slightly in fiscal 1979 since production outside the United States is up nearly 20 percent in 1978/79. Exports to the European Community (EC) and South America are likely to decline from fiscal 1978's record high, while the USSR is expected to take the minimum required by the Grain Agreement. On the other hand, some growth is expected to China, Japan, and the developing countries of Asia.

Rice exports may be up nearly 25 percent in volume in fiscal 1979. Exports will increase to Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Korea, the United Kingdom, Portugal, and Belgium-Luxembourg. Because of improved harvests, Indonesia and Italy will likely import less.

Cotton exports rose 3 percent during October-March, aided by a 25-percent increase to Japan. However, fiscal 1979 shipments are expected to remain near last year's 1.3 million tons.

Exports of cotton to China increased 18 percent during the first 6 months, but declined 7 percent to other East and South-east Asian countries. Although textile production in Asia continues high, mills may be reducing large inventories of cotton in anticipation of an economic slowdown.

Tobacco exports are now expected to increase 10 percent in fiscal 1979, to the greatest volume since 1973/74. The EC is expected to account for most of the rise. Modest gains are also forecast for Africa and Oceania. Increases in shipments to Korea and Taiwan will offset declines to Japan and Thailand.

The value of exports of animals and animal products is increasing sharply because of higher prices, but the export volume is likely to decline.

U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS: VOLUME OF SELECTED COMMODITIES

Commodity	Fiscal year		
	1977	1978	1979 ¹
	—Million metric tons—		
Wheat and flour	24.72	32.83	32.0
Feed grains	50.60	55.54	58.5
Rice	2.23	2.11	2.6
Soybeans	15.16	19.69	21.8
Vegetable oils	1.14	1.47	1.4
Oilcake and meal	4.26	5.84	6.0
Cotton, incl. linters . . .	1.05	1.38	1.4
Tobacco . . . . .	.29	.27	.3
Fresh fruit	1.34	1.32	1.3
Animal fats	1.38	1.28	1.3
Total	102.17	121.73	126.6

¹Forecast.

VALUE OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

	Fiscal Year		
	1977	1978	1979 ¹
	Billion dollars		
Grain and feed	10.12	11.71	13.2
Oilseeds and products . .	6.40	7.45	9.2
Cotton incl. linters . . .	1.54	1.71	1.9
Tobacco	1.07	1.13	1.4
Fruits, nuts, and vegetables	1.65	1.88	2.1
Sugar and tropical products . . . . .	.53	.57	.6
Animals and products . .	2.66	2.84	3.6
Total	24.00	27.30	32.0

¹Forecast.

Soviet Agricultural Update

This update of the agricultural situation in the Soviet Union covers three developments that will encourage increased imports of grains and oilseeds if current trends continue. The first—record livestock inventories—indicates increased mixed-feed production and stronger demand. The others, a shortfall in fertilizer production and late spring planting, suggest a setback for domestic crop production.

Industrial output of meat and whole milk products in the USSR in 1979 has changed little from year-earlier levels, despite record increases of all major types of livestock. Output in the second quarter must increase considerably from the first quarter level for the high meat production goal set for this year to be met.

May 1, 1979 livestock inventories were as follows:

	Million head	Percent above a year earlier
Cattle	93.0	1
Cows	29.6	1
Hogs	55.6	2
Sheep and goats	151.0	1
Poultry	671.5	7

Record inventories are likely by the end of 1979.

Mixed feed production increased 5 percent during the first quarter of 1979. Further increases in supplies of grain for animal feed are needed to support the expanding livestock base.

Fertilizer Production Falls Short

Growth in mineral fertilizer available in the USSR for the 1979 crops will be constrained because of production difficulties. The Soviet's 1979 goal to produce 111 million tons of mineral fertilizers is already out of reach because of a serious shortfall in first quarter production. It is quite possible that output for all of 1979 will not equal that of 1978.

Fertilizer production problems have become worse since they first materialized in the third quarter of 1978. Output during

first quarter of 1979 fell to 21.7 million tons (standard gross weight), almost 14 percent below first quarter 1978 and the smallest first quarter output since 1974.

Planting Off to a Slow Start

Spring seeding progress has lagged last year's pace—the result of rain and cold weather over most of the major European USSR agricultural regions in April. As of May 21, planting progress of grains was approaching normal, but total spring crops planting continued to lag. Spring crops had been seeded on 106.7 million hectares—about 1.4 million hectares less than seeded by this date in 1978 and about 3 to 4 million hectares less than the average during 1970-78.

The lag in seeding total spring crops was about 2 to 3 days. Seeding of sunflowers and sugarbeets trailed 1978 by about a week. Cotton seeding was completed on schedule by May 7.

The late spring could reduce 1979 crop production, but, as in the rest of the Northern Hemisphere, the effect on harvest yields is uncertain.

U.S. Team Reports On Soviet Mixed Feed Industry

The Soviet Union is undertaking a rapid development program for the production of mixed feed, according to a U.S. study team which returned from the USSR today. Production of mixed feed in the USSR was 60 million metric tons in 1978, with goals of 68 million tons in 1979 and 77 million tons in 1980. The goal for 1985 is 100 million tons.

A major problem in Soviet livestock feeding is the supply of protein materials. The efficiency of feed conversion is low, and much grain is fed with little or no protein supplementation. The Soviets are making determined efforts to increase protein supplies, through the use of materials such as grass meal, urea, and yeast. In the opinion of the study team, however, these efforts are likely to be inadequate if announced goals are to be met.

A second major problem appears to be the building of milling capacity. The Soviets have not met their construction goals for feed plants in recent years.



East Asia: Rapidly Growing U.S. Market

John Parker
International Economics Division

East Asia¹ imported \$23 billion worth of agricultural products from all sources in 1978, up from \$21 billion in 1977, mostly because of larger purchases by Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Japan's total agricultural imports surpassed \$12.5 billion in 1978, after remaining steady near \$11 billion for 4 years.

The United States in 1978 accounted for 37 percent of Japan's agricultural imports, 64 percent of Korea's, 55 percent of Taiwan's, and 14 percent of Hong Kong's.

U.S. agricultural exports to East Asia increased 19 percent in 1978 to a record \$7.6 billion and should reach \$8.5 billion in 1979. The 1979 total may include nearly \$5 billion to Japan, \$1.4 billion to Korea, \$1.0 billion to Taiwan, and about \$400 million to Hong Kong.

Some of the leading exports to East Asia in 1978 were:

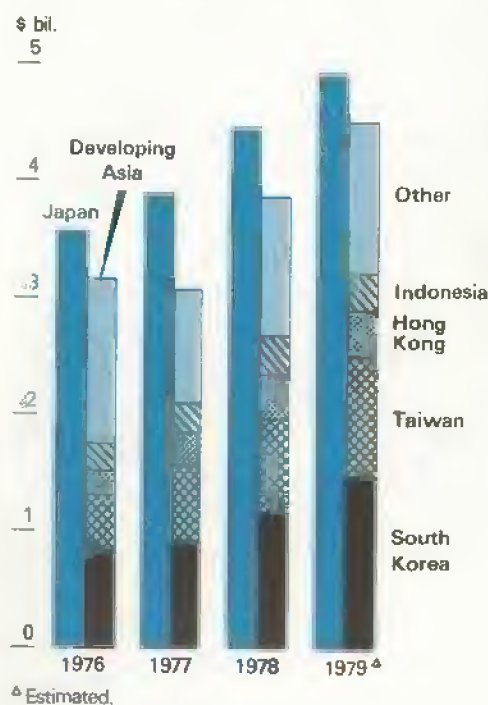
	\$Billion
Soybeans	1.35
Corn	1.32
Cotton	1.21
Wheat and flour	0.93
Tobacco	0.41

¹ East Asia includes Japan, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Thailand, and Burma.

East Asia takes over two-thirds of U.S. cotton and beef exports, one-fourth of corn, tobacco, and soybeans. More than half of cattle hide exports go to East Asia.

Although Japan remains the largest market in the region for U.S. agricultural exports, sales to Korea and Taiwan have increased faster since the mid-1970's. Corn exports to Korea and Taiwan increased to

U.S. Agricultural Exports to Japan and Developing Asia



nearly 2 million tons each in 1978, sharply above the 1975 level. Soybean exports to Taiwan and Korea are rising rapidly. Korea surpassed Japan to become the major cotton export market in 1978.

Farm commodity exports to East Asia increased during the 1970's with the exception of rice. Thailand has become the leading supplier of the region's large rice imports. Rice sales to East Asia have remained below levels of the mid-1970's. This year larger sales to Korea should offset smaller shipments to Indonesia.

The commodity mix has become more diversified. Shipments of a number of smaller-volume commodities to Japan and Korea doubled in the last 2 years and some much more. For example, exports of pork to South Korea increased from less than \$1 million in 1977 to over \$13 million in 1978.

The rapid increase in agricultural exports to East Asia has occurred because demand has risen faster than domestic production, marketing facilities have been expanded and modernized, and restrictive import policies have eased.

—Real economic growth for most East Asian countries has exceeded 10 percent in recent years, sparking rapid growth in demand for food and consumer goods.

—Upgrading of the average diet to provide more calories and protein has followed the rapid gains in income.

—Land area for growing crops other than rice is limited and yields are already high. High support prices are used to encourage farmers in much of East Asia to grow more rice.

—Industrialization has increased demand for such raw materials as tallow, soybeans, tobacco, cotton, and cattle hides.

—The addition of refrigerators to many households has brought changes in family diet, new foods, and a generally higher standard of living.

—Construction of new port facilities, warehouses, and the development of modern food distribution systems have been accelerated in some countries because of the expanding role of trade in their economies.

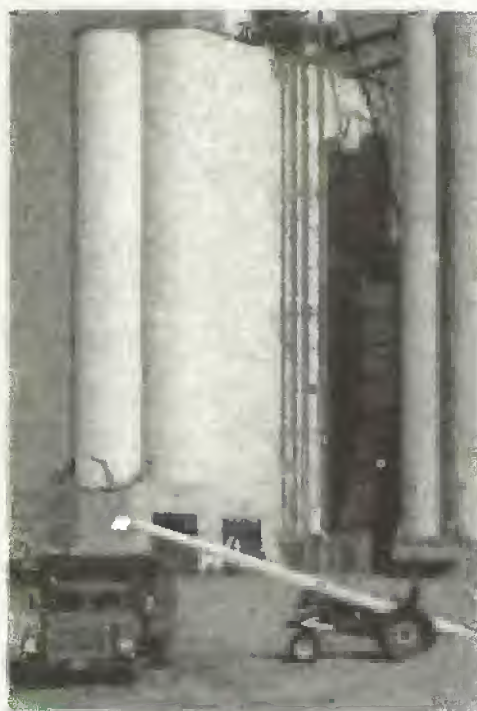
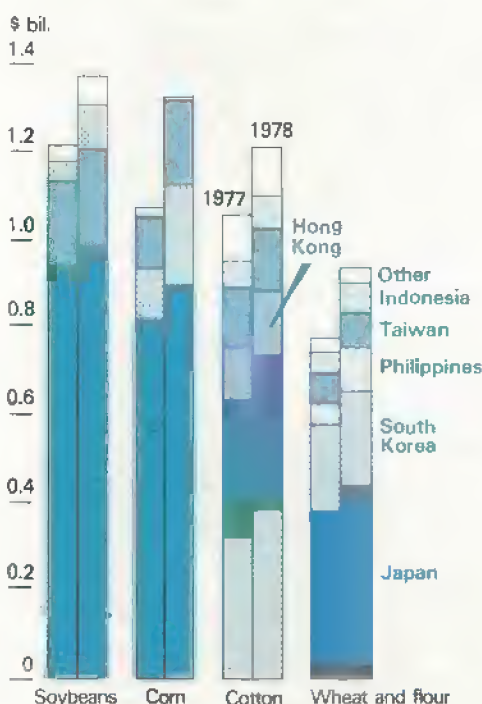
—New marketing and transport systems were developed. Improvements in transport, storage, and distribution have enabled importers to obtain products faster and at lower cost. For example, exports of fresh produce to Hong Kong are rising rapidly because of containerized shipping.

—Government trade policies have become more flexible, allowing duty-free imports of more items. Controlling inflation and satisfying urban consumers have received greater attention.

The 1978 U.S. trade deficit with East Asia was nearly \$20 billion, \$5 billion larger than the deficit with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). This large deficit is a factor influencing growth of farm exports to the region. Some East Asian countries, notably Korea and Taiwan, are removing nontariff trade barriers to an array of U.S. farm products. Further liberalization of trade policies is likely and agricultural exports likely will continue increasing rapidly. Our exports of processed foods to Taiwan soared in early 1979.

Total exports to East Asia increased from \$21.2 billion in 1977 to \$26.4 billion in 1978, while imports from East Asia increased from \$36.5 billion to \$46.1 billion.

U.S. Exports of Major Commodities to East Asia



Storage and Transportation

Railroad rates for farm and food products in April, while little changed from March, topped April 1978 by roughly 12 percent.

And further increases are in sight since railroads can be expected to seek increased rates to offset higher diesel fuel costs. The higher cost of diesel fuel may also prompt trucks and barges to raise their rates for transporting agricultural commodities.

Grain Storage Capacity Larger Than Last Year

Grain storage capacity on April 1, 1979 was 17.8 billion bushels, 8 percent more than last year. Commercial (off-farm) storage totaled 7.0 billion bushels, up from 6.6 billion in 1978 while on-farm storage was put at 10.8 billion bushels, compared to 9.9 billion a year ago. Nearly all of the added on-farm capacity was financed by the USDA farm-storage facility loan program, which offered 7-year loans with low downpayments and interest rates.

Loans under this program financed construction of 513 million bushels of farm storage capacity in 1977 and 845 million bushels in 1978. Through April 1 this year loans were authorized for an additional 89 million bushels of capacity.

Grain Stocks Remain Large

Large feed grain soybean production coupled with a rapid harvest produced some localized shortages of grain storage capacity last fall, primarily in the Midwest States.

The big crop and carryover resulted in record soybean and feed grain stocks on January 1. Stocks remained large on April 1, particularly on farms. Of the 7.6 billion bushels of total stocks, 4.8 billion were stored on the farm. This compares with a 1977 total of 7.3 billion bushels, of which 4.2 billion were in on-farm locations.

Grain Storage Adequate

A preliminary assessment of the grain storage capacity which will be available in relation to needs this summer and fall indicates sufficient capacity for handling the 1979/80 crop carryover.

Total grain storage needs have been analyzed for 20 major wheat, feed grain, and soybean producing States.¹ The 20 States surveyed account for 86.3 percent of off-farm grain storage capacity and 86.8 percent of on-farm storage capacity. Storage requirements were estimated for July 1 and December 1,—dates which approximate harvest peak—based on projected 1979 crop production, April 1 stocks, and estimated disappearance.

In order to estimate needs for on-farm storage, commercial storage was assumed to be filled first.

On July 1 projected stocks would exceed commercial storage capacity, implying on-farm storage needs for only seven of the 20 States. The seven would require 1.1 billion bushels of on-farm storage capacity, but almost 4.7 billion bushels of storage capacity is actually available.

By the end of the season the majority of 20 States could require more storage capacity than is available commercially. Sixteen of them require 6.2 billion bushels of on-farm storage capacity. On-farm storage capacity in the 20-State total is 9.4 billion bushels—3.2 billion above the implied on-farm storage needs.

¹ Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Some localized shortages of grain storage capacity are likely to occur in six of the States because storage needs require nearly all their on-farm storage capacity. However, a major shortage is not expected because of the increased capacity and increased use of grains and soybeans this year.

While it now appears that grain storage capacity will be sufficient, shortages could occur if there were to be a reduction in grain and soybean utilization, another large wheat and feed grain crop, a lengthy harvest period, or transportation tieups. Further assessments will be made as the crop year progresses.

Barge Shipments Lag, Railcar Loadings Rise

Barge shipments of grain averaged only 25.7 million bushels a week in April, down 25 percent from 34.2 million bushels during the same time last year as high water levels on the Mississippi River made barge loading difficult. Additionally, the Illinois River was closed during most of April, forcing some river terminals to close.

In early May, barge shipments increased to almost 37 million bushels a week. Barring unforeseen problems, barge shipments should approach this higher level through early summer.

Railcar loadings of grain continue to rise, averaging almost 24,300 cars a week in early May, up from 23,000 in March.

June Situation Report Schedule

Situation reports which will be released by USDA's World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board this month are:

Title	Off Press
Poultry and Egg	June 5
Livestock and Meat	June 15
Tobacco	June 18
Ag Supply and Demand	June 22

Single copies of the above reports may be obtained by writing to: ESCS Publications, Room 0054 South Building, USDA Washington, D.C. 20250.

Hopper Cars Increase, Box Cars Decline

The number of 40-foot narrow door box-cars continues to decline rapidly—dropping 25 percent since January 1, 1978. Most of the cars retired from service were old or in poor condition.

At the same time, covered hopper car numbers continue to climb, particularly those with a capacity of 4,000 cubic feet or more, the type primarily used to transport grain. More than 6,800 of these large hopper cars have been put into service since the beginning of last year.

The loss in boxcar capacity more than offset the gain in hopper car capacity. However, annual capacity is not reduced as much because covered hopper cars average more trips each year than boxcars.

Date	40-ft. narrow door box cars	Covered hopper cars 4,000 cu. ft. and over	Total covered hopper cars
Jan. 1, 1978	89,320	95,622	166,062
July 1, 1978	77,614	98,593	167,846
Jan. 1, 1979	67,222	100,415	168,432
May 1, 1979	66,968	102,426	170,733

Rural Transportation Advisory Task Force Hearings Set

The Rural Transportation Advisory Task Force, authorized by the Congress last fall, will hold public hearings on rural transportation problems in several States in July.

The task force, charged with developing a comprehensive rural transportation policy, will study options for solving transport problems and recommend solutions.

Hearings will be held in Iowa, Indiana, North Dakota, Kansas, Texas, California, Washington, New York, North Carolina, and Florida.

For information concerning dates and locations of the public hearings, contact USDA's Office of Transportation, (202) 447-7690.



Recent Publications

Below is a list of selected USDA publications, arranged by subject area, which may be of interest to you. To order reports, write directly to the issuing agency (indicated in parentheses after each report citation) at the address listed below. When ordering be sure to list the publication number and provide your zipcode.

ESCS Reports

The publication order form provided on the inside back cover shows the publication numbers for ESCS reports listed below. Simply circle those you would like to receive and mail to ESCS Publications, Room 0054 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

FAS Reports

FAS Information, Room 5918 South, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

State Reports

Publications issued by a State may be obtained by writing the address shown in parentheses. No copies are available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

New report listings, by subject matter:

Cotton and Fibers

Cotton Gin Operating Costs in the Mid-south: 1973/74 and 1977/78. ESCS 52 (ESCS).

World Production of Sisal and Abaca Forecast Down in 1979. FVF 2-79 (FAS).

Fruits and Nuts

Short Brazil Nut and Cashew Crops in 1978 Keep Prices at Record Levels. FN 1-79 (FAS).

Europe's Canned Deciduous Fruit Pack up in 1978; U.S. and Japanese Packs Down. FCAN 1-79 (FAS).

1978 Texas Fruit and Pecan Statistics. Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, P.O. Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767.

Grains

Wheat and Corn Prices for Selected Countries. FG 6-79 (FAS).

Rice Production in Nontraditional Areas. AER 423 (ESCS).

Livestock and Meat

U.S. Livestock, Meat, and Meat Exports in February 1979 Surpass Imports. FLM MT 8-79 (FAS).

Miscellaneous

Chronological Landmarks in American Agriculture. AIB 425 (ESCS).

U.S. Seed Exports, Quantity, Value, and Destination, July-March and March, 1977/78 and 1978/79 Marketing Years. FFVS 4-79 (FAS).

Oilseeds and Products

U.S. Oilseed Exports and Imports up in February 1979. FOP 5-79 (FAS).

U.S. Essential Oil Trade Mixed in 1978. FTEA 3-79 (FAS).

U.S. Oilseed Trade Climbs to Record Level in 1978. FOP 8-79 (FAS).

World Oilseed Situation and Outlook. FOP 9-79 (FAS).

Population

Unmasking Problems in Rural Health Planning. RDRR 11 (ESCS).

Household Expenditure Patterns in the United States. TB 1603 (ESCS).

Economies of Size in Local Government: An Annotated Bibliography. RDRR 9 (ESCS).

Comparison of Sample Designs for a Population of Farms. ESCS 35 (ESCS).

Poultry

1978 Texas Poultry Statistics. Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, P.O. Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767.

Tobacco

Net U.S. Tobacco Trade at \$82 Million in January. FT 4-79 (FAS).

U.S. Tobacco Exports Reach \$2.1 Billion Top 1977 Record; Imports up Slightly. FT 3-79 (FAS).

Vegetables

Potatoes: World Production up Slightly; U.S. Exports to Canada and Japan Advance. FVEG 1-79 (FAS).

Tomato Products: World Output Dips; EC Subsidy Spurs Outturn in Italy and France. FVEG 2-79 (FAS).

World Agriculture

USSR Agricultural Situation, Review of 1978 and Outlook for 1979. Supplement 1 to WAS 18 (ESCS).

Asia Agricultural Situation, Review of 1978 and Outlook for 1979. Supplement 2 to WAS 18 (ESCS).

Eastern Europe Agricultural Situation, Review of 1978 and Outlook for 1979. Supplement 3 to WAS 18 (ESCS).

Microfiche Reports

The following are available FOR SALE ONLY from National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va. 22161.

Agricultural-Food Policy Review: Proceedings of Five Food Policy Seminars. (ESCS-AFPR-2) 145 p. Accession No. PB 287 544/AS. Paper \$7.25, Fiche \$3.00.

Research Issues Reemphasized by 1977 Food Policy. (ESCS 10) 18 p. Accession No. PB 282 305/AS. Paper \$4.00, Fiche \$3.00.

Building and Fencing Materials: Prices, Margins, and Marketing Practices. (ESCS 21) 22 p. Accession No. PB 284 083/AS. Paper \$4.00, Fiche \$3.00.

Number and Physical Characteristics of Grain Elevators. (ESCS 22) 44 p. Accession No. PB 281 937/AS. Paper \$4.00, Fiche \$3.00.

Retail Meat Prices in Perspective. (ESCS 23) 19 p. Accession No. PB 283 387/AS. Paper \$4.00, Fiche \$3.00.

Foreign Ownership of U.S. Real Estate in Perspective. (ESCS 24) 7 p. Accession No. PB 282 093/AS. Paper \$4.00, Fiche \$3.00.

Farm Equipment Prices, Margins, and Related Marketing Costs. (ESCS 28) 23 p. Accession No. PB 287 016/AS. Paper \$4.00, Fiche \$3.00.

Consumer Awareness and Use of Unit Pricing. (ESCS 30) 29 p. Accession No. PB 284 084/AS. Paper \$4.50, Fiche \$3.00.

Open Space Preservation: Federal Tax Policies Encouraging Donation of Conservation Easements. (ESCS 32) 37 p. Accession No. PB 284 960/AS. Paper \$4.50, Fiche \$3.00.

Current Economic Research on Food Stamp Use. (ESCS 37) 15 p. Accession No. PB 285 883/AS. Paper \$4.00, Fiche \$3.00.

U.S. Barley Industry Statistics. (AGERS 37) 90 p. Accession No. PB 283 041. Paper \$6.00, Fiche \$3.00.

Reclaiming Motes From Cotton Gin Waste: Practices, Supplies, and Prices. (ESCS 38) 20 p. Accession No. PB 284 542/AS. Paper \$3.00, Fiche \$3.00.

Normalized Prices for Resource Planning. A Comparison of Alternatives. (ESCS 39) 25 p. Accession No. PB 289 190. Paper \$4.50, Fiche \$3.00.

Returns to Equity Capital by Farm Type and Economic Class of Farm, Based on 1970 Data. (AGERS 40) 101 p. Accession No. PB 281 597. Paper \$6.50, Fiche \$3.00.

Utilization of Selected Medical Services in the Northeastern Coastal Plains of North Carolina. (AGERS 46) Accession No. PB 288 126/AS. Paper \$4.50, Fiche \$3.00.

Symposium on Impacts on Rural America of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments, P.L. 92-500. Accession No. PB 289 610/AS. 54 p. Paper \$5.25, Fiche \$3.00.



Market News Information

Market news is just a dial away—and available 24 hours a day—for many buyers and sellers of farm products. Below are numbers of automatic telephone answering devices for grain and livestock information. Unless otherwise stated, numbers are in operation year-round. Instant market news phone calls are usually free only in the local area, but a few States offer toll-free 800 lines for within-State calls. Phone numbers, particularly for seasonal offices, may change from time to time so, in case of difficulty in reaching a number, ask the operator for the number of the Federal-State market news recorder in the city listed.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Alabama

Foley (205) 943-5170
Potatoes May-June
Rainville (205) 638-6215
Potatoes June-July

Arizona

Nogales (602) 281-0625
Melons & Vegetables Dec.-June
Phoenix (602) 279-4134
Vegetables Sept.-July
Yuma (602) 782-9597
Vegetables June-July

California

Bakersfield (805) 323-0727
Potatoes & Vegetables Year Round
Blythe (714) 922-7151
Melons & Vegetables Nov.-April
Coachella (714) 398-0353
Grapes
El Centro (714) 352-5130
Melons and Vegetables Year Round
Fallbrook (714) 728-6014
Avocado Year Round
Fresno (209) 233-0341
Fruits Year Round
Fresno (209) 488-5617
Melons July-Sept.
Los Angeles (213) 622-3922
Fruits Year Round
Los Angeles (213) 622-3973
Vegetables Year Round
Salinas (408) 449-7221
Vegetables Year Round
San Francisco (415) 397-6513
Wine Grapes Aug.-Dec.
Santa Maria (805) 343-2308
Vegetables Year Round

Colorado

Monte Vista (303) 852-2568
Potatoes Sept.-June

Delaware

Dover (302) 697-2345
Potatoes July-Sept.

District of Columbia

Washington (202) 447-2599
Honey & Sugar Year Round

Florida

Belle Glade (305) 996-0235
Vegetables Oct.-May
Fort Myers (813) 322-2114
Citrus & Vegetables Oct.-June
Fort Pierce (305) 465-5239
Citrus & Vegetables Oct.-June
Immokalee (813) 657-2793
Vegetables & Watermelons Oct.-June
Miami (305) 666-7106
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round
Winter Park (305) 628-0319
Citrus & Vegetables Year Round
Plant City (813) 754-2826
Vegetables & Melons Jan.-June

Pompano Beach (305) 946-4343

Vegetables Oct.-May
Trenton (904) 463-2427
Watermelons May-June

Georgia

Statewide (1-800) 342-1192
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round
Forest Park (404) 361-5211
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round
Fort Valley (912) 825-7450
Peaches May-July
Thomasville (912) 226-7567
Vegetables, Melons and Pecans
Year Round

Hawaii

Hilo (808) 935-9209 Year Round
Honolulu (808) 548-7171 Year Round
Kahului (808) 244-5226 Year Round
Lihue (808) 245-2125 Year Round

Idaho

Fruitland (208) 452-3722
Onions Aug.-June
Idaho Falls (208) 522-3979
Potatoes Aug.-June

Illinois

Chicago (312) 353-0240 Year Round

Louisiana

Baton Rouge (504) 925-4640
Year Round

Maine

Presque Isle (207) 764-3948
Potatoes Oct-June

Maryland

Jessup (301) 799-7278 Year Round

Massachusetts

Boston (617) 727-7937 Year Round

Michigan

Bay City (517) 893-8961
Potatoes June-Sept.
Benton Harbor (616) 925-1096
Fruits & Vegetables June-March
Detroit (313) 841-1431
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round

Minnesota

Minneapolis (612) 725-2291 Year Round

Mississippi

State-wide (800) 222-7188
Pecans & Watermelons July-Dec.

Missouri
St. Louis (314) 425-4559
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round

New Jersey
Bridgeton (609) 455-2510
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round
Highstown (609) 448-1482 Year Round
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round

New Mexico
Las Cruces (505) 646-4928
Vegetables Oct.

New York
Albion (716) 589-5863
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round
Lockport (716) 433-5988
Fruits & Vegetables
Aug.-April
Newburgh (914) 651-4626
Vegetables July-May
Oswego (315) 343-9509
Vegetables July-Aug.
Riverhead (516) 727-6884
Potatoes July-March
New York City (212) 542-3564
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round

North Carolina
Elizabeth City (919) 335-0080
Potatoes June-July
Faison (919) 267-9211
Vegetables June-July
Hendersonville (704) 693-0491
Fruits & Vegetables July-Oct.

Ohio
Cincinnati (513) 621-2542
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round
Cleveland (216) 361-9936
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round

Oklahoma
Oklahoma City (405) 521-0466
Pecans Oct-Dec.

Oregon
Merrill (503) 798-5733
Potatoes Oct.-May

Pennsylvania
Philadelphia (215) 597-4429
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round
Pittsburgh (412) 644-2678
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round

South Carolina
Columbia (803) 758-7200
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round

Texas
Austin (512) 475-3845
Melons & Pecans May-Dec.
Dallas (214) 749-2865
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round
Hereford (806) 364-0129
Vegetables July-Sept.
McAllen (512) 383-2492
Citrus Sept.-June
San Antonio (512) 222-9065
Vegetables Year Round
Uvalde (512) 278-6794
Vegetables Oct.-June
Weslaco (512) 682-2581
Fruits & Vegetables Sept.-June.

Virginia
Onley (804) 787-4228
Potatoes June-Aug.
Richmond (804) 786-8749
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round
Windsor (804) 242-6978
Watermelons July-Aug.

Washington
Seattle (206) 725-9145
Fruits & Vegetables Year Round
Yakima (509) 453-6073
Fruits Year Round
Yakima (509) 452-7859
Vegetables Year Round

Wisconsin
Antigo (715) 623-2838
Potatoes Aug.-April
Madison (608) 266-6760
Potatoes Aug.-April
Stevens Point (715) 341-6463
Potatoes Aug.-April

COTTON

Alabama
Montgomery (205) 262-8408
Oct.-Dec.

Arizona
Phoenix (602) 253-4793 Oct.-Jan.

Arkansas
Blytheville (501) 763-7549 Sept.-Dec.
(501) 375-6524 Oct-Jan.

California
Bakersfield (805) 323-7873
Oct.-Jan.
El Centro (714) 353-4521
Oct.-Jan.
Fresno (209) 486-0511 Oct.-Jan.

Georgia
Macon (1-800) 342-7137 (Within
State Only) Oct.-Dec.

Louisiana
Winnsboro (318) 435-3557 Oct.-Dec.

Mississippi
Greenwood (601) 455-2403 Oct.-Jan.

New Mexico
Las Cruces (505) 646-4928 Nov.-Dec.

Oklahoma
Altus (405) 482-1024 Oct.-Dec.

South Carolina
Columbia (803) 771-0030 Oct.-Dec.

Tennessee
Memphis (901) 521-2936 Oct.-Jan.

Texas
Abilene (915) 676-4211 Oct.-Jan.
Corpus Christi (512) 883-2310
El Paso (505) 646-4928 Year Round
Harlingen (512) 425-1061 Aug.-Oct.
Lubbock (806) 763-7870 Year Round
Waco (817) 752-0443 Year Round

How's your Outlook

If your outlook has been dimmed this year by lack of up-to-the-minute information on commodities, international trade, and economic events, then you had better mark your calendar for November 5-8. Plan on attending the 1980 FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. The Conference is open to the public and there is no charge to attend.

The Conference brings together economists of the land grant colleges and universities in the 50 States with those of USDA and other Government agencies. Increasingly, the Conference has been attracting farm, agribusiness, financial, and consumer interests, too.

Come and be a part of this year's proceedings and get a preview of 1980 agriculture at home and abroad. Find out what top Government officials and leading industry advisors have to say about next year's agriculture situation.

You'll benefit from the latest thinking in sessions on the U.S. agricultural and general economies, weather, retail food supplies and prices, the farm policy, world trade, farm inputs, food marketing and distribution, and farm commodities. There will also be sessions on how outlook information is derived, and on natural resources and the environment.

If you're consumer conscious, come and find out the latest on food, nutrition, perspective legislation, clothing, housing, and health care.

Watch for further details on OUTLOOK '80 in future issues of Agricultural Outlook.

Statistical Indicators

Summary Data

Key statistical indicators of the food and fiber sector

	1977	1978					1979			
	Annual	I ¹	II	III	IV	Annual	I ¹	II	III	Annual ²
									Forecast	Range
Prices received by farmers (1967=100)	183	193	214	214	219	210	240	249	252	225-245
Livestock and products (1967=100)	175	195	215	220	232	216	263	275	279	250-270
Crops (1967=100)	192	192	212	207	203	203	213	220	223	195-235
Prices paid by farmers, all items (1967=100)	202	211	218	221	225	219	238	248	250	245-250
Production items (1967=100) ³	208	218	226	228	232	226	249	261	260	255-260
Farm production (1967=100)	121	—	—	—	—	122	—	—	—	—
Livestock and products (1967=100)	106	—	—	—	—	108	—	—	—	—
Crops (1967=100)	130	—	—	—	—	131	—	—	—	—
Farm income ⁴										
Cash receipts (\$bil.)	96.1	104.6	109.3	109.0	117.7	110.2	125.4	131	131	124-133
Livestock (\$bil.)	47.6	52.7	57.4	57.7	64.0	58.0	68.5	70	71	68-73
Crops (\$bil.)	48.5	51.9	51.9	51.3	53.7	52.2	56.9	61	60	55-60
Gross farm income (\$bil.)	108.1	118.3	123.0	122.6	133.2	124.3	139.0	145	145	138-147
Production expenses (\$bil.)	88.0	92.5	95.0	95.5	101.5	96.1	105.5	110	113	110-114
Net income before inventory adjustment (\$bil.)	20.1	25.8	28.0	27.4	31.7	28.2	33.5	35	32	31-33
Net income after inventory adjustment (\$bil.) ⁵	20.6	26.3	28.0	27.6	33.2	28.8	33.5	34	32	31-33
Market basket. ⁶										
Retail cost (1967=100)	179.2	188.1	199.1	204.2	206.2	199.4	217.5	222	226	219-223
Farm value (1967=100)	178.1	191.1	211.1	213.2	213.8	207.4	237.3	238	239	233-239
Spread (1967=100)	180.0	186.1	191.8	198.7	201.6	194.5	205.4	213	218	213-215
Farm value/retail cost (%)	38	38	40	39	39	41	41	40	40	40-41
Retail Prices ⁷										
Food (1967=100)	192.2	201.8	201.5	215.3	218.0	211.4	227.5	234	238	232-234
At home (1967=100)	190.2	199.9	210.0	214.4	216.5	210.2	227.0	232	236	231-233
Away-from-home (1967=100)	200.3	210.3	215.9	221.6	226.0	218.4	233.2	240	244	238-240
Per capita food use (1967=100)	104.3	—	—	—	—	104.6	—	—	—	104-106
Animal products (1967=100) ⁸	103.0	100.5	100.0	100.7	104.0	102.1	99.3	100	101	101-103
Crop products (1967=100)	105.7	—	—	—	—	107.4	—	—	—	107-109
Agricultural exports (\$bil.) ⁹	24.0	6.1	6.5	7.9	6.8	27.3	8.2	7.7	8.2	27-33
Agricultural imports (\$bil.) ⁹	13.4	3.0	3.9	3.4	3.6	13.9	3.9	4.1	4.1	14-16

¹ Preliminary. ² The chances are 2 out of 3 that the final outcome will fall within this range. ³ Including interest, wages, and taxes. ⁴ Quarterly data are seasonally adjusted at annual rates; 1978 data are preliminary estimates. ⁵ Includes net change in farm inventories. ⁶ Quarterly data are given at annual rates. 1978 revised to conform with the new Consumer Price Index-All urban. ⁷ Quarterly data exclude fish products. ⁸ Annual and quarterly data are based on Oct.-Sept. fiscal years ending with indicated years; quarters indicated refer to fiscal year quarters, not calendar year quarters, i.e. I 1978 means Oct.-Dec. 1977, II 1978 means Jan.-Mar. 1978, etc.

Farm Income

Gross and net farm income¹

	Annual			1976		1977				1978				1979
	1976	1977	1978	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
	\$ Bil.													
Cash receipts from farm marketings . . .	94.5	96.1	110.2	93.2	92.6	97.6	95.7	91.3	99.6	104.6	109.3	109.0	117.7	125.4
Livestock and products	46.2	47.6	58.0	45.2	45.1	46.3	46.6	47.8	49.5	52.7	57.4	57.7	64.0	68.5
Crops	48.3	48.5	52.0	48.0	47.5	51.3	49.1	43.5	50.1	51.9	51.9	51.3	53.7	56.9
Nonmoney and other farm income ² . . .	9.6	12.0	14.1	9.6	10.0	10.5	11.1	11.4	15.2	13.7	13.7	13.6	15.5	13.6
Gross farm income	104.1	108.1	124.3	102.8	102.6	108.1	106.7	102.7	114.8	118.3	123.0	122.6	133.2	139.0
Farm production expenses	83.0	88.0	96.1	84.5	82.9	87.5	87.0	86.0	91.4	92.5	95.0	95.5	101.5	105.5
Net income before inventory adj.	21.1	20.1	28.2	18.3	19.7	20.5	19.7	16.7	23.4	25.8	28.0	27.1	31.7	33.5
Net change in farm inventories	-2.4	.4	.6	-1.2	-3.2	-1.0	.5	0	2.1	.5	0	.5	1.5	0
Net income after inventory adj.														
Current prices	18.8	20.6	28.8	17.1	16.5	19.6	20.2	16.8	25.5	26.3	28.0	27.6	33.2	33.4
1967 prices ³	11.0	11.3	14.7	9.9	9.5	11.1	11.2	9.4	13.5	14.0	14.5	13.9	16.4	16.2

¹Quarterly data are seasonally adjusted at annual rates. ²Includes government payments to farmers, value of farm products consumed in farm households, rental value of farm dwellings, and income from recreation, machine hire, and custom work. ³Deflated by the consumer price index for all items, 1967=100.

Cash receipts from farming

	Annual			1978				1979		
	1976	1977	1978	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	\$ Mil.									
Farm marketings and CCC loans ¹	94,501	96,084	110,221	8,134	12,846	12,326	10,408	10,607	8,836	10,019
Livestock and products	46,152	47,565	58,041	4,580	5,650	5,334	5,223	5,493	5,077	5,734
Meat animals	26,954	27,946	36,695	2,842	3,925	3,528	3,311	3,553	3,282	3,662
Dairy products	11,428	11,776	12,701	1,075	1,016	1,044	1,117	1,190	1,084	1,226
Poultry and eggs	7,167	7,219	8,008	623	665	709	733	713	663	805
Other	603	624	637	40	44	53	62	37	48	41
Crops	48,349	48,519	52,180	3,554	7,196	6,992	5,185	5,114	3,759	4,285
Food grains	16,898	6,140	5,833	295	731	547	440	432	425	426
Feed crops	13,079	12,017	11,386	828	1,333	1,778	1,208	1,301	866	916
Cotton (lint and seed)	3,477	3,939	3,706	123	528	686	747	830	378	155
Tobacco	2,310	2,330	2,549	27	425	439	261	265	63	26
Oil-bearing crops	9,252	9,393	11,843	1,214	2,414	1,714	1,039	1,175	1,080	1,652
Vegetables and melons	5,245	5,661	6,154	370	745	377	320	408	252	394
Fruits and tree nuts	3,617	4,262	5,406	301	505	629	560	363	377	314
Other	4,471	4,777	5,303	396	515	822	610	340	318	402
Government Payments	734	1,819	3,000	164	275	171	888	125	215	104
Total cash receipts ²	95,235	97,903	113,221	8,298	13,121	12,497	11,296	10,732	9,051	10,123

¹Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month. ²Details may not add because of rounding.

Farm marketing indexes (physical volume)

	Annual			1978				1979		
	1976	1977	1978	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	1967=100									
All commodities	121	125	122	109	172	165	134	130	103	111
Livestock and products	111	114	111	111	124	117	110	108	95	104
Crops	135	140	137	107	239	232	167	161	114	121

NOTE: The table, Cash receipts from farm marketings by States, January-March, will appear in the July issue of Agricultural Outlook.

Farm Prices: Received and Paid

Indexes of prices received and paid by farmers, U.S. average

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr ^o
1967=100										
Prices Received										
All farm products	186	183	210	208	216	222 ^a	232	241	246	244
All crops	197	192	203	208	202	205	209	216	214	212
Food grains	202	156	191	195	198	197	197	196	195	196
Feed grains and hay	218	181	184	194	178	183	185	190	192	193
Feed grains	214	174	180	191	175	181	183	187	190	191
Cotton	265	270	245	232	272	258	249	241	233	238
Tobacco	163	175	191	183	201	205	204	203	202	204
Oil-bearing crops	205	243	226	230	234	237	239	252	258	253
Fruit	129	163	227	194	213	207	212	229	230	224
Fresh market ¹	126	159	236	200	217	212	217	236	238	231
Commercial vegetables	161	175	186	245	163	173	225	247	219	211
Fresh market	173	195	209	296	169	215	265	299	255	240
Potatoes ²	201	194	206	189	166	169	169	159	170	167
Livestock and products	177	175	216	209	228	237	252	264	274	272
Meat animals	170	168	225	218	236	247	270	288	304	304
Dairy products	192	193	210	201	230	234	236	236	234	230
Poultry and eggs	178	174	185	187	189	198	202	205	211	202
Prices paid										
Commodities and services, interest, taxes, and wage rates	191	202	219 ^a	216	225	226	234	238	243	245
Production items	193	200	216	214	222	225	230	235	243	246
Feed	191	186	183	187	184	187	189	193	195	196
Feeder livestock	154	158	221	213	241	250	265	287	314	322
Interest payable per acre on farm real estate debt	287	331	396	396	396	396	487	487	487	487
Taxes on farm real estate	178	195	207	207	207	207	221	221	221	221
Wage rates (seasonally adjusted)	210	226	242	246	237	237	257	257	257	257
Production items, interest, taxes, and wage rates	198	208	226	224	231	233	244	248	255	257
Prices received (1910-14=100)	464	457	524	521	539	555	579	602	615	609
Prices paid, etc. (Parity index) (1910-14=100)	650	687	744	736	764	770	796	808	826	834
Parity ratio ³	71	66	70	71	71	72	73	75	74	73

¹ Fresh market for noncitrus and fresh market and processing for citrus. ² Includes sweet potatoes and dry edible

Prices received by farmers, U.S. average

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr ^p
Crops										
All wheat (\$/bu.)	3.15	2.29	2.82	2.82	3.04	3.01	2.99	2.99	2.97	2.98
Rice, rough (\$/cwt.)	76.90	7.94	9.28	10.80	7.76	7.98	8.07	7.87	8.19	8.23
Corn (\$/bu.)	2.49	2.03	2.10	2.24	2.02	2.09	2.11	2.18	2.22	2.24
Sorghum (\$/cwt.)	4.00	3.11	3.45	3.62	3.44	3.63	3.54	3.55	3.57	3.52
All hay, baled (\$/ton)	58.00	57.10	49.90	51.40	46.40	47.30	48.90	50.70	50.20	49.50
Soybeans (\$/bu.)	5.58	6.82	6.28	6.49	6.39	6.49	6.58	6.99	7.15	7.00
Cotton, Upland (cts./lb.)	59.7	60.9	55.0	52.2	61.1	58.1	56.0	54.2	52.5	51.3
Potatoes (\$/cwt.)	4.14	3.90	3.99	3.39	3.15	3.12	3.13	2.78	3.07	3.02
Dry edible beans (\$/cwt.)	16.40	17.50	18.60	20.30	16.60	16.90	16.50	18.10	17.30	17.20
Apples for fresh use (cts./lb.)	10.1	12.3	16.4	15.2	13.9	13.7	13.6	14.0	14.2	14.0
Pears for fresh use (\$/ton)	178	145	130	449	284	281	244	243	295	356
Oranges, all uses (\$/box) ²	1.64	2.94	4.72	4.08	4.79	4.64	4.51	5.05	5.23	4.58
Grapefruit, all uses (\$/box) ²	1.45	1.67	2.39	1.22	1.78	1.64	1.72	1.82	2.10	2.68
Livestock										
Beef cattle (\$/cwt.)	33.90	34.50	48.20	47.20	51.50	54.10	59.80	64.10	70.20	72.40
Calves (\$/cwt.)	34.50	36.80	58.10	53.70	66.50	71.90	78.10	85.50	93.80	96.40
Hogs (\$/cwt.)	43.00	40.00	47.10	45.00	46.70	48.00	50.60	52.80	49.40	44.30
Lambs (\$/cwt.)	47.60	51.40	63.10	63.90	61.90	65.10	73.10	71.80	64.20	69.80
All milk, sold to plants (\$/cwt.)	9.66	9.71	10.60	10.10	11.60	11.80	11.90	11.90	11.80	11.60
Milk, manuf. grade (\$/cwt.)	8.57	8.71	9.67	9.28	10.70	10.90	10.90	10.80	10.80	10.80
Broilers (cts./lb.)	23.1	23.5	26.5	27.8	24.7	24.9	27.0	28.9	28.9	28.2
Eggs (cts./doz.) ³	68.8	54.2	52.5	51.7	56.8	61.6	60.3	60.1	64.3	60.2
Turkeys (cts./lb.)	31.8	34.8	41.7	38.1	46.6	49.6	47.2	45.1	43.4	43.1
Wool (cts./lb.) ⁴	65.1	71.4	76.3	73.7	79.7	76.8	77.7	77.0	77.5	84.1

¹ Ten month average. ² Equivalent on-tree returns. ³ Average of all eggs sold by farmers, including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. ⁴ Average local market price, excluding incentive payments. ^o Calendar year averages. ^p Preliminary.

Producer and Retail Prices

Producer Price Indexes, U.S. average (not seasonally adjusted)

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
	1967=100									
Finished goods ¹	170.3	180.6	184.6	191.4	200.3	202.5	205.3	207.4	208.8	211.2
Consumer foods	180.2	189.1	206.8	204.6	211.0	215.5	220.1	224.6	225.9	227.6
Fruits and vegetables ²	178.4	192.2	218.2	227.3	217.4	218.3	230.7	259.5	232.2	237.2
Eggs	179.1	162.0	158.6	152.3	177.9	189.0	178.5	176.7	199.9	185.5
Bakery products	180.0	186.5	201.2	195.2	210.2	210.4	212.2	214.3	214.6	216.0
Meats	173.6	170.7	209.5	205.3	211.7	220.3	234.1	240.8	243.4	246.2
Beef and veal	156.0	157.5	202.2	204.9	198.4	200.2	235.0	243.1	256.0	270.1
Pork	201.4	190.1	219.1	202.7	229.1	230.8	235.1	239.6	224.2	210.7
Poultry	166.2	173.3	194.0	189.6	188.9	193.9	196.4	206.1	207.7	201.3
Fish	272.4	294.3	313.0	296.0	343.7	352.1	351.0	371.0	367.8	377.9
Dairy products	168.5	173.4	188.4	184.5	199.6	202.7	203.4	203.1	204.8	207.0
Processed fruits and vegetables	170.2	187.3	202.6	196.4	216.3	218.4	218.4	219.3	219.5	220.4
Refined sugar	n.a.	n.a.	108.3	104.0	116.2	112.8	113.5	114.7	115.0	113.5
Vegetable oil and products	174.2	198.6	209.4	216.8	210.4	211.7	210.6	214.2	215.2	221.3
Consumer finished goods less foods	161.8	172.1	188.9	180.4	189.5	190.8	193.3	194.8	196.5	199.2
Beverages, alcoholic	138.1	139.7	148.0	145.3	162.7	153.7	154.1	156.0	156.6	157.4
Beverages, nonalcoholic	187.2	198.1	212.1	209.2	220.2	221.0	223.8	224.9	224.9	224.9
Apparel	139.9	147.3	152.4	150.3	155.2	155.4	157.1	157.5	158.1	159.3
Footwear	158.9	168.7	183.2	180.5	192.7	194.9	196.9	203.6	210.5	212.6
Tobacco products	163.0	179.8	198.5	191.4	203.7	203.8	213.3	213.4	213.8	213.9
Intermediate materials ⁴	189.3	201.7	215.5	212.4	221.8	222.8	225.7	228.3	231.1	235.3
Materials for food manufacturing	180.6	181.7	202.3	201.7	207.9	210.7	214.4	217.3	219.5	222.2
Flour	147.8	118.9	141.5	147.4	151.7	150.9	148.2	153.1	155.6	155.3
Refined sugar ⁵	n.a.	n.a.	109.3	108.6	113.6	114.9	116.7	115.5	116.0	116.6
Crude vegetable oils	162.5	197.5	219.2	219.5	218.5	222.9	229.3	242.2	240.8	242.3
Crude materials ⁶	205.1	214.4	240.2	239.0	248.6	252.4	260.2	270.5	276.5	279.9
Foodstuffs and feedstuffs	190.1	190.9	215.4	216.3	221.3	224.7	232.9	243.6	247.2	251.6
Fruits and vegetables ²	178.4	192.2	218.2	227.3	217.4	218.3	230.7	259.5	232.2	237.2
Grains	205.9	165.0	182.5	198.7	189.0	184.7	184.4	189.3	192.0	198.3
Livestock	173.3	173.0	220.1	218.1	222.4	230.1	247.3	266.5	275.8	284.0
Poultry, live	166.9	175.4	199.8	196.0	192.4	198.5	206.0	217.8	217.6	229.4
Fibers, plant and animal	223.9	202.3	193.4	181.0	211.5	212.8	213.6	205.1	197.8	197.8
Milk	201.2	202.6	219.7	212.1	235.8	241.2	241.8	244.6	243.7	243.7
Oilseeds	204.4	236.7	224.1	232.6	227.7	235.6	238.6	245.9	250.0	252.9
Coffee, green	305.5	505.1	378.2	372.1	374.2	355.3	354.4	318.7	322.2	329.4
Tobacco, leaf	164.2	176.1	190.8	n.a.	201.6	205.7	205.0	202.5	202.5	n.a.
Sugar, raw cane	185.5	149.5	190.2	192.9	192.5	195.6	191.1	197.7	195.2	197.0
All commodities	183.0	194.2	209.3	206.4	215.7	217.4	220.7	223.9	226.4	229.7
Industrial commodities	182.4	195.1	209.4	206.0	216.0	217.0	219.9	222.4	225.1	228.6
All foods ⁷	178.9	186.8	206.5	204.5	211.7	215.5	219.7	224.5	225.4	227.5
Farm products and processed foods and feeds	183.1	188.8	206.7	205.5	212.5	216.1	221.0	227.0	228.8	231.2
Farm products	191.0	192.5	212.7	213.6	219.2	222.4	230.1	240.5	242.5	245.9
Processed foods and feeds	178.0	186.1	202.6	200.2	208.1	211.9	215.3	218.7	220.4	222.3
Cereal and bakery products	172.1	173.2	190.2	188.6	195.8	196.4	196.9	199.1	200.0	203.0
Sugar and confectionery	190.9	177.5	197.8	196.9	202.6	204.5	204.8	206.1	207.6	208.7
Beverages	173.5	200.9	200.1	200.1	201.4	202.3	201.3	201.3	201.4	201.6
Wholesale spot prices, 9 foodstuffs	201.6	208.2	239.2	239.5	248.3	249.1	250.9	260.2	261.8	251.8

¹ Commodities ready for sale to ultimate consumer. ² Fresh and dried. ³ Consumer size packages, Dec. 1977=100. ⁴ Commodities requiring further processing to become finished goods. ⁵ For use in food manufacturing. ⁶ Products entering market for first time which have not been manufactured at that point. ⁷ Includes all processed food (except soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and manufactured animal feeds) plus eggs and fresh and dried fruits and vegetables. n.a.=not available.

Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, U.S. average (not seasonally adjusted)*

	Annual	1978					1979			
	1978	Apr	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Dec	Mar	Apr
		1967=100								
Consumer price index, all items	195.4	191.5	199.3	200.9	202.0	202.9	204.7	207.1	209.1	211.5
Consumer price index, less food	191.2	187.4	195.1	196.7	197.8	198.6	199.8	201.8	203.8	206.3
All food	211.4	207.5	215.6	216.8	217.8	219.4	223.9	228.2	230.4	232.3
Food away from home	218.4	214.0	223.2	224.6	225.9	227.4	230.2	233.4	236.0	238.4
Food at home	210.2	206.5	214.1	215.4	216.1	217.9	223.1	228.0	229.9	231.7
Meats ¹	206.8	200.8	212.7	215.3	217.6	219.4	227.6	238.6	244.2	248.3
Beef and veal	201.0	191.9	209.7	211.3	212.5	215.4	227.7	243.4	252.1	262.5
Pork	213.1	211.5	213.7	218.7	222.6	223.4	226.7	232.3	233.4	225.9
Poultry	172.9	169.3	177.9	177.3	176.0	177.6	181.2	185.8	189.9	189.9
Fish	275.4	271.6	280.0	281.7	285.4	286.5	290.4	293.0	294.0	295.6
Eggs	157.8	155.3	161.9	159.1	167.0	179.5	180.4	182.1	181.3	179.3
Dairy products ²	185.6	181.6	188.8	191.1	193.2	196.4	198.4	200.6	201.5	202.4
Fats and oils ³	209.6	204.5	215.4	216.3	216.9	217.6	218.1	219.2	219.5	222.5
Fruits and vegetables	212.9	210.9	216.2	216.3	210.4	209.7	221.6	226.5	225.9	226.5
Fresh	218.5	217.3	222.5	221.5	207.7	203.2	224.3	232.7	230.5	230.7
Processed	208.7	205.7	211.2	212.5	215.3	218.9	220.7	221.6	222.7	223.9
Cereals and bakery products	199.9	195.2	203.8	205.1	206.6	207.9	210.0	212.2	213.5	214.5
Sugar and sweets	257.5	254.9	261.8	262.3	263.8	264.9	268.2	270.2	272.1	274.2
Beverages, nonalcoholic	340.8	342.9	339.8	340.4	340.9	341.7	345.4	347.8	347.1	347.7
Apparel commodities less footwear	154.2	153.5	156.5	157.7	158.4	157.0	153.6	154.1	157.1	167.9
Footwear	163.8	161.7	165.7	167.8	169.1	169.6	168.7	168.9	171.6	174.2
Tobacco products	177.2	173.9	180.8	181.0	180.9	180.9	183.0	185.2	185.8	186.1
Beverages, alcoholic	159.8	157.9	162.0	163.1	163.9	164.8	166.0	167.7	169.2	170.2

¹ Beef, veal, lamb, pork, and processed meat. ² Includes butter. ³ Excludes butter.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Market basket of farm foods

	Annual			1978p			1979p			
	1976	1977	1978p	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Market basket ¹ :										
Retail cost (1967=100)	175.4	179.2	207.4	194.9	205.9	207.7	213.3	218.5	220.7	222.4
Farm value (1967=100)	177.8	178.1	207.4	206.1	209.8	219.5	230.8	239.2	242.1	241.0
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	174.0	180.0	194.5	188.1	203.5	200.4	202.6	205.8	207.7	211.1
Farm value/retail cost (%)	38.3	37.5	39.3	39.9	38.5	39.9	40.9	41.4	41.4	40.9
Meat products:										
Retail cost (1967=100)	178.5	174.3	206.8	200.8	217.6	219.4	227.6	238.6	244.2	248.3
Farm value (1967=100)	170.1	169.8	211.5	203.6	215.0	231.9	249.3	262.4	266.1	264.0
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	189.5	180.0	200.6	197.1	221.0	203.2	199.5	207.7	215.7	227.9
Farm value/retail cost (%)	53.8	55.0	57.8	57.3	55.8	59.7	61.8	62.1	61.5	60.0
Dairy products:										
Retail cost (1967=100)	168.5	173.3	185.5	181.6	193.2	196.4	198.4	200.6	201.5	202.4
Farm value (1967=100)	185.9	187.2	204.3	201.0	216.9	221.7	223.2	224.7	225.9	227.2
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	153.3	161.3	169.2	164.7	172.6	174.4	176.8	179.6	180.2	180.8
Farm value/retail cost (%)	51.4	50.3	51.3	51.5	52.3	52.6	52.4	52.2	52.2	52.3
Poultry:										
Retail cost (1967=100)	157.0	158.1	172.9	169.3	176.0	177.6	181.2	185.8	189.9	189.9
Farm value (1967=100)	174.4	178.5	202.7	210.3	197.5	192.2	199.1	211.0	221.9	221.6
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	140.2	138.4	144.1	129.7	155.2	163.5	163.9	161.4	158.9	159.2
Farm value/retail cost (%)	54.6	55.5	57.7	61.1	55.2	53.2	54.0	55.9	57.5	57.4
Eggs:										
Retail cost (1967=100)	174.9	169.1	157.8	155.3	167.0	179.5	180.4	182.1	181.3	179.3
Farm value (1967=100)	201.9	187.5	178.7	175.5	193.0	213.6	216.9	215.8	212.2	211.9
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	135.8	142.5	127.5	126.1	129.4	130.2	127.6	133.4	136.6	132.2
Farm value/retail cost (%)	68.2	65.5	66.9	66.8	68.3	70.3	71.1	70.0	69.2	69.8
Cereal and bakery products:										
Retail cost (1967=100)	180.8	183.7	199.9	195.2	206.6	207.9	210.0	212.2	213.5	214.5
Farm value (1967=100)	162.3	138.2	163.9	173.3	164.3	165.7	164.5	167.8	173.5	173.0
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	184.6	193.2	207.3	199.7	215.4	216.6	219.4	221.4	221.8	223.1
Farm value/retail cost (%)	15.4	12.9	14.1	15.2	13.6	13.7	13.4	13.6	13.9	13.8
Fresh fruits:										
Retail cost (1967=100)	161.3	187.9	230.1	209.8	225.6	208.4	216.9	225.4	234.5	243.6
Farm value (1967=100)	146.7	177.2	228.8	204.3	192.0	193.9	201.0	208.5	211.0	226.5
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	167.8	192.7	230.7	212.3	240.7	214.9	224.1	233.0	245.0	251.3
Farm value/retail cost (%)	28.2	29.2	30.8	30.2	26.4	28.8	28.7	28.7	27.9	28.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Market basket of farm foods

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978p	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Fresh vegetables:										
Retail costs (1967=100)	179.1	200.6	216.2	227.0	200.1	203.8	238.6	246.9	234.6	224.7
Farm value (1967=100)	184.4	205.4	216.3	267.6	180.1	187.4	251.3	258.8	246.5	231.3
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	176.5	198.3	216.2	207.9	209.5	211.5	232.6	241.3	229.0	221.6
Farm value/retail costs (%)	32.9	32.8	32.0	37.7	28.8	29.4	33.7	33.5	33.6	32.9
Processed fruits and vegetables:										
Retail cost (1967=100)	181.7	190.2	208.7	205.7	215.3	218.9	220.7	221.6	222.7	223.9
Farm value (1967=100)	202.8	188.5	213.3	221.7	230.0	230.3	232.2	230.5	238.1	235.3
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	177.1	190.6	207.7	203.1	212.0	216.4	218.2	219.6	219.3	221.4
Farm value/retail costs (%)	20.2	18.0	18.5	19.5	19.4	19.1	19.1	18.8	19.4	19.0
Fats and oils:										
Retail costs (1967=100)	176.7	192.0	209.6	204.5	216.9	217.6	218.1	219.2	219.5	222.5
Farm value (1967=100)	206.4	249.3	257.4	267.9	248.1	256.8	249.5	285.0	283.8	279.5
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	165.2	169.9	191.1	180.1	205.0	202.5	206.0	193.9	194.7	200.6
Farm value/retail cost (%)	32.5	36.1	34.1	36.4	31.8	32.8	31.8	36.1	35.9	34.9

¹ Market basket statistics are based on the weighting structure of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U). Retail costs are based on indexes of retail prices for domestically produced farm foods from the CPI-U published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The farm value is the payment to farmers for quantity of farm product equivalent to retail unit, less allowance for byproduct. Farm values are based on prices at first point of sale and may include marketing charges such as grading and packing for some commodities. The farm-retail spread, the difference between the retail price and the farm value, represents charges assembling, processing, transporting, and distributing these foods.

Farm-retail price spreads

	Annual			1978p			1979p			
	1976	1977	1978p	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Beef, Choice:¹										
Retail price ² (cts./lb.)	148.2	148.4	181.9	176.0	187.8	193.6	204.9	215.3	225.9	232.8
Net carcass value ³ (cts.)	91.5	93.8	119.3	121.0	119.2	125.7	138.5	145.0	154.6	160.4
Net farm value ⁴ (cts.)	84.1	85.5	111.1	114.0	111.2	117.5	128.1	137.0	146.8	153.6
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	64.1	62.9	70.8	62.0	76.6	76.1	76.8	78.3	79.1	79.2
Carcass-retail spread ⁵ (cts.)	56.7	54.8	62.6	65.0	68.6	67.9	66.4	70.3	71.3	72.4
Farm-carcass spread ⁶ (cts.)	7.4	8.3	8.2	7.0	8.0	8.2	10.4	8.0	7.8	6.8
Farm value/retail price (%)	57	58	61	65	59	61	62	64	65	66
Pork:¹										
Retail price ² (cts./lb.)	134.0	125.4	143.6	141.6	150.4	150.5	154.2	167.1	156.9	150.7
Wholesale value ³ (cts.)	105.2	99.0	107.7	104.6	111.0	112.2	116.0	116.0	109.4	103.8
Net farm value ⁴ (cts.)	71.0	65.6	76.6	72.7	76.6	78.5	82.4	85.0	76.5	70.9
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	63.0	59.8	67.0	68.9	73.8	72.0	71.8	72.1	80.4	79.8
Wholesale-retail spread ⁵ (cts.)	28.8	26.4	35.9	37.0	39.4	38.3	38.2	41.1	47.5	46.9
Farm-wholesale spread ⁶ (cts.)	34.2	33.4	31.1	31.9	34.4	33.7	33.6	31.0	32.9	32.9
Farm value/retail price (%)	53	52	53	51	51	52	53	54	49	47

¹ Revised series, for historical data and methodology see August 1978 issue of *Livestock and Meat Situation*, LMS-222. ² Estimated weighted average price of retail cuts from pork and yield grade 3 beef carcasses. Retail prices from USDA's meat price survey. ³ Value of carcass quantity equivalent to 1 lb. of retail cuts—beef adjusted for value of fat and bone byproducts. ⁴ Market value to producer for quantity of live animal equivalent to 1 lb. retail cuts minus value of byproducts. ⁵ Represents charges for retailing and other marketing services such as fabricating, wholesaling, and in-city transportation. ⁶ Represents charges made for livestock marketing, processing, and transportation to city where consumed. p Preliminary.

Food marketing: Spreads, costs, and profit rates

Year	Farm-retail price spread	Intermediate goods and services ¹				Profit rates after taxes			
		Total	Containers packaging	Fuel, power, and light	Hourly earnings ²	Food retailers ³		Food manufacturers ⁴	
						Sales	Equity	Sales	Equity
1967=100					Dollars	Percent			
1972	119.0	126	117	126	3.49	—	—	2.6	11.2
1973	126.4	134	123	138	3.71	—	—	2.6	12.8
1974	150.4	159	151	202	4.06	—	—	2.9	13.9
1975	165.1	180	174	237	4.44	0.5	6.8	3.2	14.4
1976	174.0	193	184	258	4.79	.8	10.0	3.4	14.9
1977	180.0	208	195	310	5.20	.8	10.8	3.1	13.2
1978 ⁵	194.5	223	211	327	5.65	.9	12.7	3.2	13.8
1977									
I	178.0	202	189	301	5.06	.8	10.5	2.7	11.4
II	178.9	207	195	306	5.14	.9	11.4	3.5	15.0
III	180.6	211	197	315	5.23	.6	7.4	3.1	13.1
IV	181.8	213	199	317	5.36	1.0	13.6	3.2	13.6
1978 ⁵									
I	185.9	217	203	321	5.51	.8	10.5	2.7	11.4
II	191.5	221	207	327	5.59	1.0	13.4	3.5	15.4
III	198.0	226	213	328	5.67	.9	11.8	3.1	13.4
IV	201.1	230	219	330	5.82	1.0	15.1	3.3	15.1
1979 ⁵									
I	205.4	235	224	340	5.96				

¹Represents all goods purchased by food marketing firms except raw materials and plant and equipment, and all services except those performed by employees, calculated from wholesale price relatives. ²Weighted composite of production employees in food manufacturing and nonsupervisory employees in wholesale and retail trade, calculated from data of the U.S. Department of Labor. Revised to conform to 1972 SIC codes. ³Federal Trade Commission. These data are based on reports from all food retailing corporations having more than \$100 million in annual sales, and whose activities are at least 75 percent specialized in supermarket operations. ⁴"Quarterly Financial Report," Federal Trade Commission. Data represent national aggregate estimates for corporations based upon a sample of company reports. Data since 1973 are imperfectly comparable with prior data because of changes in accounting methods. ⁵Preliminary.

Food Supply and Use

Civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities (retail weight)¹

	1960	1970	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978 ²
Pounds								
Meats:	134.1	151.4	142.6	152.5	145.4	155.3	154.6	149.6
Beef	64.3	84.1	81.1	86.4	88.9	95.7	93.2	89.0
Veal	5.2	2.4	1.5	1.9	3.5	3.3	3.2	2.5
Lamb and mutton	4.3	2.9	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4
Pork	60.3	62.0	57.6	62.2	51.2	54.6	56.7	56.5
Fish (edible weight)	10.3	11.8	12.9	12.2	12.3	13.0	12.8	13.4
Poultry Products:								
Eggs	42.4	39.5	37.3	36.6	35.4	34.8	34.5	35.2
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	27.8	40.5	40.7	41.1	40.6	43.3	44.9	47.7
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	6.2	8.0	8.5	8.9	8.6	9.2	9.2	9.4
Dairy Products:								
Cheese	8.3	11.5	13.7	14.6	14.5	15.8	16.4	17.3
Condensed and evaporated milk	13.7	7.1	6.0	5.6	5.3	3.6	3.3	3.1
Fluid milk and cream (product weight)	321.0	296.0	293.0	288.0	291.1	292.0	288.4	285.9
Ice cream (product weight)	18.3	17.7	17.5	17.5	18.7	18.1	17.7	17.8
Fats and Oils—Total fat content	45.3	53.0	54.3	53.2	53.4	56.1	54.4	56.0
Butter (actual weight)	7.5	5.3	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.5
Margarine (actual weight)	9.4	11.0	11.3	11.3	11.2	12.2	11.6	12.0
Lard	7.6	4.7	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.6	3.5	3.4
Shortening	12.6	17.3	17.3	17.0	17.3	18.1	17.6	18.5
Other edible fats and oils	11.5	18.2	20.8	20.3	20.3	22.0	21.6	23.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities (retail weight)¹

	1960	1970	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978 ²
	Pounds							
Fruits:								
Fresh:	90.0	79.3	74.2	76.9	81.3	83.7	79.6	81.6
Citrus	32.5	28.1	26.9	27.1	28.7	28.5	25.2	26.3
Noncitrus	57.5	51.2	47.3	49.8	52.6	55.2	54.4	55.3
Processed:								
Canned fruit	22.6	23.3	21.3	19.6	19.3	19.2	20.0	19.0
Canned juice	13.0	14.6	15.9	14.6	16.2	16.2	15.6	18.3
Frozen (including juices)	9.1	9.8	11.2	11.2	12.6	12.2	11.8	11.3
Chilled citrus juices	2.1	4.7	5.3	5.2	5.7	6.2	5.8	6.2
Dried	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.4	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.4
Vegetables³								
Fresh ³	96.0	91.0	93.0	95.0	94.1	94.2	93.3	92.4
Canned (excluding potatoes and sweet potatoes)	43.4	51.2	54.3	53.3	52.4	53.5	53.9	54.0
Frozen (excluding potatoes)	7.0	9.6	10.6	10.1	9.6	10.2	10.3	10.9
Potatoes ³	105.0	115.3	114.4	112.3	120.3	114.4	119.8	123.3
Sweet potatoes ⁴	6.5	5.2	4.6	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.5	5.0
Grains:								
Wheat flour ³	118	110	112	110	113	118	114	114
Rice	6.1	6.7	7.0	7.6	7.7	7.2	7.6	8.0
Other:								
Coffee	11.6	10.4	10.1	9.5	9.0	9.4	6.7	7.9
Tea	.6	.7	.8	.8	.8	.8	.9	.7
Cocoa	2.9	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.7
Peanuts (shelled)	4.9	5.9	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.6	6.6
Dry edible beans	7.3	5.9	6.4	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.1	5.9
Melons	23.2	21.2	19.8	17.1	17.3	18.6	19.3	19.9
Sugar (refined)	97.4	101.8	101.5	96.6	90.2	94.7	95.7	92.7

¹ Quantity in pounds, retail weight unless otherwise shown. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits, fresh citrus fruits, peanuts, and rice which are on a crop-year basis. ² Preliminary. ³ Commercial production for sale as fresh produce. ⁴ Including fresh equivalent of processed. ⁵ White, whole wheat, and semolina flour including use in bakery products.

Note: Historical consumption and supply-utilization data for food may be found in *Food Consumption, Prices, and Expenditures*, Ag. Econ. Report 138 and annual supplements, ESCS, USDA.

Per capita food consumption indexes¹

	1960	1970	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978 ²	1979 ³
	1967=100								
Meat, poultry, and fish⁴	89.7	104.7	100.4	105.8	102.7	109.6	109.2	107.0	106.5
Meat	92.1	104.0	97.7	104.6	101.2	107.9	107.0	103.0	100.9
Poultry	75.3	107.0	108.7	110.6	108.1	116.0	119.4	125.9	135.9
Fish	96.9	110.6	121.2	114.6	113.7	120.8	119.4	124.5	124.5
Eggs	104.2	97.0	91.6	89.9	87.0	85.5	84.8	86.5	88.2
Dairy products⁵	103.4	99.3	100.6	99.1	99.8	101.6	101.0	101.5	102.0
Fats and oils	96.1	105.9	107.9	104.9	105.5	109.8	106.5	111.9	111.8
Animal	116.7	87.7	73.0	72.4	65.2	60.3	61.0	63.3	65.8
Vegetable	82.7	119.3	133.6	128.9	135.3	146.4	140.2	147.9	145.8
Fruits⁵	106.6	103.0	99.6	99.2	106.6	108.4	106.7	106.4	107.8
Fresh	114.0	102.0	94.2	97.0	105.6	108.2	106.8	106.5	106.6
Processed	98.3	104.3	106.5	102.1	107.9	108.6	106.5	106.2	109.3
Vegetables⁶	99.2	101.9	105.3	104.5	104.2	106.5	105.6	105.8	107.2
Fresh	107.4	100.6	101.8	101.7	102.2	103.8	103.2	104.8	106.2
Processed	83.9	104.1	111.4	109.4	107.7	111.2	109.6	107.6	108.8
Potatoes and sweet potatoes	79.8	110.3	110.1	109.2	114.0	109.5	112.1	119.0	119.9
Fresh	133.8	95.0	83.5	80.0	90.8	85.9	88.4	87.8	87.8
Processed	52.2	122.3	131.0	132.2	132.2	128.1	130.8	153.5	145.1
Beans, peas, and nuts	94.8	98.0	105.3	101.8	106.6	104.7	101.6	103.2	104.0
Cereal products	102.2	97.7	97.2	95.4	96.0	104.0	100.8	101.4	101.6
Sugar	97.9	106.0	110.6	108.7	105.8	112.8	115.3	113.1	112.9
Coffee, tea, and cocoa	99.6	93.9	97.7	92.1	89.7	91.6	76.5	79.1	78.6
Total food	96.7	102.4	101.7	102.3	101.5	105.8	104.7	104.6	104.8
Animal products	95.5	102.0	98.6	101.4	99.1	103.5	103.1	102.1	102.2
Crops ⁷	98.0	102.9	105.2	103.3	104.2	108.4	106.4	107.4	107.8

¹ Civilian consumption only. Quantities of individual foods are combined in terms of 1967-69 retail prices. ² Preliminary. ³ Forecast. ⁴ Excludes butter. ⁵ Excludes melons and baby food. ⁶ Excludes soup, baby food, dry beans and peas, potatoes, and sweet potatoes. ⁷ Includes melons, nuts, soup, and baby food in addition to groups shown separately.

Transportation Data

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Rail freight rate index ¹										
All products (1969=100)	186.6	199.1	213.0	207.8	216.3	231.0	231.7	231.7	232.3	232.7
Farm products (1969=100)	182.7	191.3	204.9	200.1	207.6	220.7	220.9	221.4	223.1	223.5
Food products (1969=100)	185.1	195.3	210.0	204.6	213.1	228.2	228.2	228.2	229.0	229.5
Rail carloadings of grain (thou. cars) ²	25.5	23.9	25.8	23.8	27.6	24.8	21.7	20.6	23.2	24.1
Barge shipments of grain (mil. bu.) ³	31.0	29.3	31.3	34.2	33.1	26.7	20.9	22.2	24.9	25.7
Fresh fruit and vegetable shipments										
Rail (thou. carlots) ^{3, 4, 5}	⁶ 3.8	1,552	928	1,288	921	865	866	870	1,063	1,125
Truck (thou. carlots) ^{3, 4, 5}	⁶ 17.0	6,596	6,830	7,348	7,151	7,400	6,905	6,433	7,387	7,824

¹ Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ² Weekly average; from Association of American Railroads. ³ Weekly average; from Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA. ⁴ Preliminary data for 1977 and 1978. ⁵ Shipments reported in 1000 hundredweight. Typical truck loads are about 40,000 pounds and average railcar/loads in 1975 were about 60,000 pounds. ⁶ Thousand carlots.

Livestock and Products

Livestock and products output and prices

	1977	1978				1979					
	Annual	I	II	III	IV	Annual	I ¹	II ¹	III ¹	IV	Annual
Beef (mil. lb.)	24,986	6,106	5,938	5,923	6,043	24,010	5,546	5,050	5,300	5,500	21,396
Change (pct.) ²	-3	-3	-4	-6	-3	-4	-9	-15	-11	-9	-11
Pork (mil. lb.)	13,051	3,243	3,265	3,160	3,541	13,209	3,399	3,600	3,700	4,200	14,899
Change (pct.) ²	+5	-2	+3	+3	+1	+1	+5	+10	+17	+19	+13
Veal (mil. lb.)	794	178	149	139	134	600	115	100	75	100	390
Change (pct.) ²	-2	-11	-20	-32	-33	-24	-35	-38	-46	-25	-35
Lamb and mutton (mil. lb.)	341	75	76	73	76	300	72	75	75	75	297
Change (pct.) ²	-6	-17	-12	-13	-6	-12	-4	-1	+3	-1	-1
Red meats (mil. lb.)	39,172	9,602	9,428	9,295	9,794	38,119	9,132	8,825	9,150	9,875	36,982
Change (pct.) ²	0	-3	-2	-4	-2	-3	-5	-6	-2	+1	-3
Broilers (mil. lb.)	9,227	2,327	2,547	2,567	2,443	9,884	2,551	2,800	2,820	2,640	10,811
Change (pct.) ²	+3	+8	+6	+6	+9	+7	+10	+10	+10	+8	+94
Turkeys (mil. lb.)	1,892	228	400	680	676	1,984	271	500	745	725	2,241
Change (pct.) ²	-3	+9	+10	+1	+5	+5	+19	+25	+10	+7	+13
Total meats (mil. lb.)	50,291	12,157	12,375	12,542	12,913	49,987	11,954	12,125	12,715	13,240	50,034
Change (pct.) ²	0	-1	0	-2	0	-1	-1.7	-2	+1.4	+2.5	+1
Eggs (mil. doz.)	5,408	1,378	1,394	1,380	1,444	5,596	1,419	1,435	1,425	1,485	5,674
Change (pct.) ²	+1	+4	+4	+4	+2	+3	+3	+3	+3	+3	+3
Milk (bil. lb.)	122.7	29.8	32.7	30.5	29.0	³ 121.9	30.0	32.7	30.5	29.0	122.2
Change (pct.) ²	+2	0	-1	-1	0	-1	+1	0	0	0	
Total livestock and products (1974=100)	106.2	102.9	107.3	106.0	105.6	105.7	102.1	105.8	106.6	107.9	105.6
Change (pct.) ³	+7	-4	-2	-1.5	+1	-5	-8	-1.4	+6	+2.2	0

Prices

Choice steers, Omaha (\$ per cwt.)	40.38	45.77	55.06	53.75	54.70	52.34	65.42	74-76	74-76	71-73	71-73
Barrows and gilts, 7-markets (\$ per cwt.)	41.07	47.44	47.84	48.52	50.05	48.46	51.98	45-47	44-46	40-42	45-47
Broilers, 9-city wholesale (cts. per lb.) ⁴	40.8	41.8	47.6	46.6	42.1	44.5	47.5	48-50	47-49	41-43	46-6
Turkeys, N.Y., wholesale (cts. per lb.) ⁴	54.0	60.2	61.4	68.2	77.1	66.7	70.2	64-66	61-63	60-62	64.5
Eggs, cartonized, Grade A large, N.Y. (cts. per doz)	63.3	62.0	53.8	63.0	67.8	61.7	71.9	65-67	67-69	70-72	69
Milk, all at farm, (\$ per cwt.)	9.71	10.20	10.03	10.47	11.57	10.58	11.87	11.45-11.60	11.80-12.20	12.90-13.20	12.00-12.30
Livestock prices received by farmers (1967=100)	175	195	215	220	232	216	263	275	279	272	272

¹ Forecast. ² Change from year-earlier. ³ Does not add due to rounding of quarterly data. ⁴ Weighted average. ⁵ 8-16 pound young hens. ⁶ Range.

Dairy:

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Milk production:										
Total milk (mil. lb.)	120,269	122,698	121,928	10,631	9,364	9,788	10,035	9,379	10,555	10,609
Milk per cow (lb.)	10,879	11,181	11,240	980	864	902	925	867	979	987
Number of milk cows (thou.)	11,055	10,974	10,848	10,844	10,837	10,853	10,848	10,819	10,779	10,748
Milk Prices, Minnesota-Wisconsin,										
3.5% fat (\$/cwt.) ¹	8.48	8.58	9.57	9.24	10.44	10.60	10.55	10.52	10.59	10.63
Price of 16% dairy ration (\$/ton)	141	140	138	137	143	145	147	150	149	149
Milk-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	1.37	1.39	1.53	1.47	1.62	1.63	1.61	1.59	1.58	1.56
Stocks, beginning										
Total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	3,844	5,708	8,626	9,165	10,048	9,215	8,730	8,709	8,868	8,598
Commercial (mil. lb.)	3,719	5,299	4,916	5,064	4,979	4,602	4,475	4,659	4,875	4,848
Government (mil. lb.)	124	410	3,710	4,102	5,073	4,613	4,254	4,050	3,994	3,750
Imports, total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	1,943	1,968	2,305	127	272	398	175	81	127	n.a.
USDA net removals:										
Total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	1,236	6,080	2,743	524.7	⁴ -141.8	⁴ -61.5	194.3	40.8	2.7	284.6
Butter:										
Production (mil. lb.)	978.6	1,085.6	999.0	98.5	66.7	77.2	97.4	86.6	89.3	n.a.
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	10.9	47.1	184.9	235.8	251.8	228.9	206.9	208.6	214.7	207.3
Wholesale price, Grade A Chicago (cts./lb.)	92.0	98.4	109.8	105.2	121.1	118.8	111.3	111.3	114.1	120.7
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	39.4	221.8	112.0	24.4	⁴ -7.0	⁴ -3.1	9.3	2.0	0	13.6
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	919.0	859.8	908.2	80.5	77.6	87.5	82.6	78.3	88.5	n.a.
American cheese:										
Production (mil. lb.)	2,048.8	2,042.4	2,093.6	190.9	153.5	171.8	173.8	166.0	185.3	n.a.
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	307.8	411.4	422.1	374.3	410.6	382.6	378.8	376.0	379.6	370.1
Wholesale price, Wisconsin assembly pt. (cts./lb.)	96.3	96.8	107.1	102.6	117.1	119.4	119.5	118.6	119.7	121.2
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	38.0	148.2	39.7	1.7	0	0	0	⁴ -3	0	0
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	1,920.9	1,958.1	2,084.1	170.5	178.7	174.0	169.2	157.7	188.6	n.a.
Other cheese:										
Production (mil. lb.)	1,274.1	1,315.5	1,423.0	115.4	122.8	128.3	115.0	110.1	137.7	n.a.
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	60.8	67.1	64.0	65.3	76.1	73.9	78.4	76.2	78.4	77.1
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	1,458.0	1,512.3	1,633.0	125.8	152.3	165.9	129.2	113.1	148.8	n.a.
Nonfat dry milk:										
Production (mil. lb.)	926.2	1,106.0	928.8	96.4	41.9	54.4	55.1	54.9	76.1	n.a.
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	468.9	485.4	677.9	662.1	637.1	601.7	585.1	560.0	549.0	524.0
Wholesale price, avg. manf. (cts./lb.)	63.4	66.5	71.4	70.5	74.7	76.5	76.4	76.6	77.2	n.a.
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	157.1	461.7	285.0	27.6	4.9	3.4	3.2	1.1	.8	21.3
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	719.2	681.6	666.8	39.3	52.6	47.6	55.3	50.6	65.0	n.a.
Frozen dessert Production (mil. gal.) ⁴	1,154.0	1,147.4	1,159.6	95.2	79.2	71.0	74.3	76.9	99.3	n.a.

¹ Manufacturing grade milk. ² Pounds of 16% Protein ration equal in value to 1 pound of milk. ³ Milk equivalent, fat-solids basis. ⁴ Domestic sales exceeded purchases.
⁵ Less than 50,000 pounds. ⁶ Ice cream, ice milk, and sherbet. n.a., not available.

Poultry and eggs:

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Eggs										
Farm Production (mil.)	64,520	64,886	67,155	5,554	5,670	5,922	5,871	5,271	5,884	5,686
Average number of layers on farms (mil.)	274	275	281	279	290	291	291	290	288	285
Rate of lay (eggs per layer)	235	236	239	19.9	19.6	20.3	20.2	18.2	20.4	19.9
Cartoned price, New York, grade A large (cts./doz.) ¹	70.3	63.3	61.7	75.1	68.8	72.6	72.5	68.0	75.1	69.6
Price of laying feed (\$/ton)	151	152	152	154	154	156	157	159	162	163
Egg-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	7.8	7.3	6.9	6.7	7.4	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.9	7.4
Stocks, beginning of period:										
Shell (thou. cases)	22	28	39	25	23	35	38	22	18	24
Frozen (mil. lb.)	36.3	26.1	29.7	22.9	27.6	25.6	25.3	25.6	24.2	21.1
Replacement chicks hatched (mil.)	492	502	492	50.9	35.6	35.9	39.9	39.5	49.4	52.6
Broilers										
Federally inspected slaughter, certified (mil. lb.)	8,987	9,227	9,883	769.1	779.1	767.3	897.3	749.1	905.0	—
Wholesale price, 9-city, (cts./lb.)	40.2	40.8	44.5	46.1	42.0	42.2	45.8	49.2	47.5	47.5
Price of broiler grower feed (\$/ton)	168	171	169	169	174	174	179	179	184	185
Broiler-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.3	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0
Stocks, beginning of period (mil. lb.)	22.3	32.9	29.4	21.8	22.8	23.2	20.1	17.9	17.7	18.3
Average weekly placements of broiler chicks, 21 States (mil.)	63.6	66.7	71.0	74.7	68.5	71.6	73.9	74.4	79.0	82.3
Turkeys										
Federally inspected slaughter, certified (mil. lb.)	1,950	1,892	1,983	80.8	248.9	156.3	99.3	77.2	95.0	—
Wholesale price, New York, 8-16 lb. young hens (cts./lb.)	48.7	54.0	66.7	59.2	78.0	80.5	72.9	67.6	70.0	68.6
Price of turkey grower feed (\$/ton)	174	184	182	183	185	185	189	194	198	200
Turkey-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	3.7	3.9	4.6	4.2	5.0	5.4	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.3
Stocks, beginning of period (mil. lb.)	195.2	203.4	167.9	113.0	430.1	235.7	175.1	170.9	259.2	135.8
Poults hatched (mil.)	149.5	148.4	158.1	19.1	8.3	10.8	13.8	15.6	20.1	21.0

¹ Price of cartoned eggs to volume buyers for delivery to retailers. ² Pounds of feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs or 1 lb. of broiler or turkey liveweight.

Meat animals:

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1975	1976	1977	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Cattle on feed (7-States)										
Number on feed (thou. head) ¹	6,369	8,537	8,213	8,262	9,302	9,315	9,226	8,729	8,214	7,948
Placed on feed (thou. head) ²	18,095	18,976	20,817	1,535	1,890	1,747	1,589	1,305	1,610	1,475
Marketings (thou. head)	14,988	18,167	18,720	1,701	1,717	1,660	1,888	1,650	1,695	1,535
Other disappearance (thou. head)	939	1,133	1,383	235	160	176	198	170	181	220
Beef steer-corn price ratio, Omaha (bu.) ³	15.8	15.2	19.9	23.3	26.3	26.6	28.4	30.3	32.7	33.2
Hog-corn price ratio, Omaha (bu.) ³	16.9	16.5	20.2	20.4	23.5	23.4	24.5	25.4	22.6	19.9
Commercial slaughter (thou. head)⁴										
Cattle	40,911	42,654	41,856	3,180	3,269	3,047	3,304	2,736	2,852	2,533
Steers	17,819	18,879	19,342	1,507	1,520	1,499	1,715	1,444	1,497	1,335
Heifers	10,438	12,158	11,748	916	991	890	948	774	799	699
Cows	11,557	10,619	9,864	690	693	603	588	471	508	453
Bulls and stags	1,097	998	902	67	65	55	53	47	48	46
Calves	5,209	5,350	5,517	352	316	300	296	240	272	223
Sheep and lambs	7,835	6,714	6,356	449	430	411	402	364	444	444
Hogs	68,687	73,784	77,303	6,458	7,042	6,434	6,696	5,947	7,397	7,237
Commercial Production (mil. lb.)										
Beef	23,673	25,667	24,986	1,910	2,038	1,902	2,069	1,700	1,778	1,586
Veal	827	813	794	50	45	41	41	35	38	33
Lamb and mutton	399	361	341	25	25	24	23	22	27	25
Pork	11,586	12,488	13,051	1,093	1,236	1,129	1,147	1,001	1,251	1,237
Market Prices										
				Dol. per 100 pounds						
Slaughter cattle:										
Choice steers, Omaha	44.61	39.11	40.38	52.52	53.82	55.54	60.35	64.88	71.04	75.00
Utility cows, Omaha	21.09	25.31	25.32	36.94	39.30	41.85	47.33	50.81	52.94	57.00
Choice vealers, S. St. Paul	40.44	45.18	48.19	69.45	78.60	78.00	80.73	91.48	97.50	104.56
Feeder cattle:										
Choice, Kansas City, 600-700 lb.	33.91	39.40	40.19	61.10	64.85	69.83	75.29	80.26	87.25	89.98
Slaughter hogs:										
Barrows and gilts, No. 1&2, Omaha ⁴	50.12	44.70	42.10	46.60	49.63	51.06	53.40	55.15	49.75	45.82
Barrows and gilts, 7-markets	48.32	43.11	41.07	46.04	48.36	49.57	52.13	54.42	49.38	45.04
Feeder pigs:										
S. Mo. 40-50 lb. (per head)	44.80	36.54	35.42	54.57	47.01	44.49	42.26	52.54	53.14	50.84
Slaughter sheep and lambs:										
Lambs, Choice, San Angelo	44.45	49.87	54.28	73.12	62.00	65.83	73.80	69.12	64.00	78.62
Ewes, Good, San Angelo	15.34	17.69	19.19	23.81	34.75	36.67	36.90	37.62	43.75	42.12
Feeder lambs:										
Choice, San Angelo	41.40	51.28	55.12	73.33	79.88	82.33	86.30	84.50	84.25	89.75
Wholesale meat prices, Midwest⁵										
Choice steer beef, 600-700 lb.	72.55	60.99	62.67	81.43	80.98	84.75	93.57	97.47	104.59	108.61
Canner and Cutter cow beef	42.90	52.00	51.55	74.13	85.00	87.88	100.05	102.28	105.20	104.26
Pork loins, 8-14 lb.	92.69	86.46	83.04	89.29	95.36	96.06	110.78	108.10	94.98	95.11
Pork bellies, 12-14 lb.	78.52	65.27	54.19	70.61	58.30	57.74	60.23	62.53	54.46	51.87
Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb.	84.06	79.79	76.50	72.34	105.24	99.86	83.58	86.27	89.82	76.47

	Annual			1977			1978				1979	
	1975	1976	1977	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II		
Cattle on feed (23-States):												
Number on feed (thou. head) ¹	9,622	12,328	11,948	9,793	12,811	11,741	10,924	11,347	12,681	11,074		
Placed on feed (thou. head) ²	24,685	25,508	27,647	9,551	6,490	6,558	7,352	8,656	5,876	—		
Marketings (thou. head)	20,500	24,170	24,861	6,085	6,771	6,621	6,523	6,734	6,770	—		
Other disappearance (thou. head)	1,479	1,718	1,935	448	789	734	406	608	713	—		
Hogs and pigs (14-States):⁴												
Inventory (thou. head) ¹	47,170	41,855	47,120	49,123	48,308	44,680	47,206	49,300	51,130	50,511		
Breeding (thou. head) ¹	6,283	6,368	6,788	7,186	7,324	6,946	7,450	7,463	8,089	8,344		
Market (thou. head) ¹	40,887	35,487	40,332	41,937	40,984	37,734	39,755	41,837	43,041	42,167		
Farrowings (thou. head)	8,417	9,996	10,362	2,565	2,285	2,870	2,658	2,796	2,659	73,548		
Pig crop (thou. head)	60,476	72,580	74,161	18,421	15,626	20,716	19,195	20,027	18,260	—		

¹ Beginning of period. ² Other disappearance excluded in 1973; not comparable with 1974 and 1975. ³ Bushels of corn equal in value to 100 pounds liveweight. ⁴ 220-240 lb. Beginning in January 230-240 lb. ⁵ Prior to Oct. 1975, Chicago. ⁶ Quarters are Dec. preceding year-Feb. (I), Mar-May (II), June-Aug. (III), and Sept-Nov (IV). ⁷ Intentions. ⁸ Class estimated.

Wool:

	Annual			1978						
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
U.S. wool price, Boston ¹ (cts./lb.)	182	183	189	181	202	202	202	202	206	220
Imported wool price, Boston ² (cts./lb.)	214	224	230	228	235	235	235	246	261	268
U.S. mill consumption, scoured										
Apparel wool (thou. lb.)	106,629	95,485	102,246	8,792	8,061	7,454	10,094	8,230	8,835	n.a.
Carpet wool (thou. lb.)	15,117	12,526	13,009	1,085	1,118	823	1,396	1,056	849	n.a.

¹ Wool price delivered at U.S. mills, clean basis. Graded Territory 64's (20.60-22.04 microns) staple 2 1/2 and up. Prior to January 1976 reported as: Territory fine, good French combing and staple. ² Wool price delivered at U.S. mills, clean basis, Australian 64's, type 78, including duty (25.5 cents). Prior to January 1976 reported as: Australian 64's combing, excluding duty. n.a. Not available.

Supply and Utilization: Crops and Livestock

Supply and utilization of major crops¹

	Domestic measure ²				Metric measure ²			
	1977/78	1978/79 estimated	1979/80 projected [*]		1977/78	1978/79 estimated	1979/80 projected [*]	
			Alt. I	Alt. II			Alt. I	Alt. II
Wheat:								
	Mil. acres				Mil. hectares			
Area								
Planted	75.1	66.1	—	—	30.3	26.8	—	—
Harvested	66.5	56.8	—	—	26.8	22.9	—	—
	Bu. per acre				Metric tons per hectare			
Yield per harvested unit	30.6	31.6	—	—	2.1	2.2	—	—
	Mil. bu.				Mil. metric tons			
Beginning stocks	1,112	1,177	926	926	30.3	32.0	—	—
Production	2,036	1,799	2,075	1,735	55.4	49.0	—	—
Imports	2	2	2	2	.1	.1	—	—
Supply, total	3,150	2,978	3,003	2,663	85.7	81.1	—	—
Domestic	849	852	913	807	23.1	23.2	—	—
Exports	1,124	1,200	1,050	1,300	30.6	32.7	—	—
Use, total	1,973	2,052	1,963	2,107	53.7	55.9	—	—
Ending stocks	1,177	926	1,040	556	32.0	25.2	—	—
	Dol. per bu.				Dol. per metric ton			
Price received by farmers	2.33	³ 2.94	2.80-3.00	3.70-3.90	86	3108	—	—
Price, Kansas City, No. 1 HRW	272	⁴ 3.34	—	—	100	⁴ 123	—	—
Rice:								
	Mil. acres				Mil. hectares			
Area								
Allotment	1.80	1.80	—	—	.73	.73	—	—
Planted	2.26	3.08	—	—	.91	1.23	—	—
Harvested	2.25	3.06	—	—	.91	1.23	—	—
	Lb. per acre				Metric tons per hectare			
Yield per harvested unit	4,412	4,505	—	—	4.94	5.06	—	—
	Mil. cwt.				Mil. metric tons			
Beginning stocks	40.5	27.4	39.2	39.2	1.8	1.2	—	—
Production	99.2	137.8	141.0	125.0	4.5	6.3	—	—
Imports	.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supply, total	139.8	165.2	180.2	164.2	6.3	7.5	—	—
Domestic	37.8	45.0	48.5	44.5	1.7	2.0	—	—
Exports	72.8	81.0	83.0	91.0	3.3	3.7	—	—
Use, total	110.6	126.0	131.5	135.5	5.0	5.7	—	—
Ending stocks	27.4	39.2	48.7	28.7	1.2	1.8	—	—
Difference unaccounted	+1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Dol. per cwt.				Dol. per metric ton			
Price received by farmers	9.49	³ 7.72	7.50-8.00	9.25-9.75	³ 209	170	—	—
Price, long-grain milled, S.W. La.	21.30	⁴ 16.87	—	—	⁴ 470	⁴ 372	—	—
Feed grains:⁵								
	Mil. acres				Mil. hectares			
Area								
Planted	128.9	122.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harvested	108.0	104.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Metric tons per acre				Metric tons per hectare			
Yield per harvested unit	1.88	2.08	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Mil. short tons				Mil. metric tons			
Beginning stocks	—	—	—	—	29.9	41.2	51.3	51.3
Production	—	—	—	—	203.4	217.3	214.7	176.9
Imports	—	—	—	—	.3	.3	.2	.2
Supply, total	—	—	—	—	233.6	258.8	266.2	228.4
Feed	—	—	—	—	117.3	129.4	138.7	120.6
Food, seed, and industrial uses	—	—	—	—	18.8	19.7	20.4	19.7
Domestic, total	—	—	—	—	136.1	149.1	159.1	140.3
Exports	—	—	—	—	56.3	58.4	58.3	65.6
Use, total	—	—	—	—	192.4	207.5	217.4	205.9
Ending stocks	—	—	—	—	41.2	51.3	48.8	22.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Supply and utilization of major crops ¹—Continued

	Domestic measure ²				Metric measure ²			
	1977/78	1978/79 estimated	1979/80 projected*		1977/78	1978/79 estimated	1979/80 projected*	
			Alt. I	Alt. II			Alt. I	Alt. II
Corn:								
Mil. acres				Mil. hectares				
Area								
Planted	83.6	79.7	—	—	33.5	31.8	—	—
Harvested	70.9	70.0	—	—	28.3	27.6	—	—
Bu. per acre				Metric tons per hectare				
Yield per harvested unit	90.7	101.2	—	—	5.71	6.03	—	—
Mil. bu.				Mil. metric tons				
Beginning stocks	884	1,104	1,462	1,462	22.5	28.0	—	—
Production	6,425	7,082	7,000	5,800	163.2	179.9	—	—
Imports	3	1	1	1	(⁶)	(⁶)	—	—
Supply, total	7,312	8,187	8,463	7,263	185.7	207.9	—	—
Feed	3,709	4,100	4,400	3,850	94.2	104.1	—	—
Food, seed, and industrial uses	551	575	600	580	14.0	14.6	—	—
Domestic, total	4,260	4,675	5,000	4,430	108.2	118.7	—	—
Exports	1,948	2,050	2,050	2,300	49.5	52.1	—	—
Use, total	6,208	6,725	7,050	6,730	157.7	170.8	—	—
Ending stocks	1,104	1,462	1,413	533	28.0	37.1	—	—
Dol. per bu.				Dol. per metric ton				
Price received by farmers	2.02	³ 2.11	2.20-2.30	2.90-3.15	³ .80	.83	—	—
Price, Chi., No. 2 Yellow	2.26	⁴ 2.31	—	—	⁴ 88.97	90.94	—	—
Soybeans:								
Mil. acres				Mil. hectares				
Area								
Planted	58.8	64.0	—	—	23.8	25.9	2.59	—
Harvested	57.6	63.0	—	—	23.3	25.5	25.5	—
Bu. per acre				Metric tons per hectare				
Yield per harvested unit	30.6	29.2	—	—	2.06	1.96	—	—
Mil. bu.				Mil. metric tons				
Beginning stocks	103	161	140	140	2.8	4.4	3.8	3.8
Production	1,762	1,843	2,070	1,800	48.0	50.2	56.3	49.0
Supply, total	1,865	2,004	2,210	1,940	50.8	54.5	60.1	52.8
Crushings	927	1,010	1,060	900	25.2	27.5	28.8	24.5
Exports	700	800	815	835	19.1	21.8	22.2	22.7
Seed, feed, and residual	77	79	85	85	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3
Use, total	1,704	1,889	1,960	1,820	46.4	51.4	53.3	49.5
Ending stocks	161	140	250	120	4.4	3.8	6.8	3.3
Dol. per bu.				Dol. per metric ton				
Price received by farmers	5.88	³ 6.75	5.75-6.25	8-10	2.16	³ 248	211-230	294-367
Price, Chi., No. 1 Yellow	6.11	⁴ 6.90	—	—	224.50	⁴ 253.52	—	—
Soybean oil:								
Mil. lb.				Thou. metric tons				
Beginning stocks	771	729	940	940	350	331	426	426
Production	10,288	11,061	11,555	9,810	4,667	5,017	5,241	4,450
Supply, total	11,059	11,790	12,495	10,750	5,016	5,348	5,668	4,876
Domestic	8,273	8,700	9,100	8,400	3,753	3,946	4,128	3,810
Exports	2,057	2,150	1,900	1,700	933	975	862	771
Use, total	10,330	10,850	11,000	10,100	4,686	4,922	4,990	4,581
Ending stocks	729	940	1,495	650	331	426	678	295
Cts. per lb.				Cts. per kilogram				
Price, crude, Decatur	24.6	27	18-20	30-34	542	59.5	397-441	661-750
Soybean meal:								
Thou. short tons				Thou. metric tons				
Beginning stocks	228	243	380	380	207	220	345	345
Production	22,371	23,987	25,175	21,375	20,295	21,761	22,838	19,031
Supply, total	22,599	24,230	25,555	21,755	20,501	21,981	23,183	19,376

See footnotes at end of table.

Supply and utilization of major crops¹—Continued

	Domestic measure ²				Metric measure ²			
			1979/80 projected *				1979/80 projected *	
	1977/78	1978/79 estimated	Alt. I	Alt. II	1977/78 ¹	1978/79 estimated	Alt. I	Alt. II
Soybean meal:—Continued								
		Thou. short tons				Thou. metric tons		
Domestic	16,276	17,500	18,500	16,500	14,765	15,876	16,783	14,969
Exports	6,080	6,350	6,600	5,050	5,516	5,761	5,987	4,581
Use, total	22,356	23,850	25,100	21,550	20,281	21,636	22,770	19,550
Ending stocks	243	380	455	205	220	345	413	186
		Dol. per short ton				Dol. per metric ton		
Price, bulk, Decatur, 44% ..	164.20	185.00	170-180	240-260	181	204	187-198	265-287
Cotton:⁷								
		Mil. acres				Mil. hectares		
Area								
Planted	13.7	13.4	—	—	5.5	5.4	—	—
Harvested	13.3	12.4	—	—	5.4	5.0	—	—
		Lb. per acre				Metric tons per hectare		
Yield per harvested unit	520	421	—	—	58	47	—	—
		Mil. 480-lb. bales				Mil. metric tons		
Beginning stocks ⁸	2.9	5.3	3.7	3.7	6	1.2	.8	.8
Production	14.4	10.9	14.6	12.2	3.1	2.4	3.2	2.7
Supply, total ⁹	17.3	16.2	18.3	15.9	3.8	3.5	4.0	3.5
Mill use	6.5	6.3	6.5	5.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2
Exports	5.5	6.3	5.0	7.0	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.5
Use, total	12.0	12.6	11.5	12.5	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.7
Difference unaccounted ¹⁰	(.6)	.1	.1	.1	(.6)	(.6)	(.6)	(.6)
Ending stocks	⁶ 5.3	⁶ 3.7	6.9	3.5	⁶ 1.2	⁶ .8	1.5	.8
		Cts. per lb.				Cts. per kilogram		
Price received by farmers	52.3	60.5	—	—	115	133	—	—
Price, SLM, 1-1/16 in., spot	52.7	¹¹ 61.4	—	—	114.7	¹¹ 133.7	—	—

¹ Marketing year beginning June 1 for wheat, barley, and oats, August 1 for cotton and rice, September 1 for soybeans, and October 1 for corn, sorghum, and soybean oil and meal. ² Conversion factors: Hectare (ha.)=2.471 acres; and 1 metric ton=2,204.622 pounds. ³ 36,7437 bushels of wheat or soybeans, 39,3679 bushels of corn or sorghum, 49,9296 bushels of barley, 69,8944 bushels of oats, 22,046 cwt. of rice, and 4.59 480-pound bales of cotton. ⁴ Season average estimate. ⁵ Average for beginning of marketing year through April 1979. ⁶ Corn, sorghum, oats, and barley. ⁷ Less than 0.05. ⁸ Upland and extra long staple. ⁹ Based on Census Bureau data. ¹⁰ Includes imports. ¹¹ Difference between ending stocks based on Census Bureau data and preceding season's supply less distribution. ¹² Average to January 1, 1979.

*Reflects the "root mean square error" and/or "standard error of estimate" from trend and judgement. Chances are about 2 out of 3 that the outcome will fall within the indicated ranges.

Crops and Products

Feed grains:

	Marketing year ¹			1978			1979			
	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Wholesale prices:										
Corn, No. 2 yellow, Chicago (\$/bu.)	2.75	2.30	2.26	2.51	2.28	2.27	2.29	2.35	2.42	2.53
Sorghum, No. 2 yellow, Kansas City (\$/cwt.)	4.46	3.49	3.54	3.92	3.67	3.64	3.71	3.73	3.77	3.81
Barley, feed, Minneapolis (\$/bu.)	2.38	2.35	1.68	1.91	1.88	1.79	1.71	1.69	1.86	1.89
Barley, malting, Minneapolis (\$/bu.) ²	3.52	3.13	2.27	2.44	2.47	2.40	2.30	2.33	2.46	2.59
Exports:										
Corn (mil. bu.)	1,711	1,684	1,948	162	154	160	131	125	170	*175
Feed grains (mil. metric tons) ³	50.0	50.6	56.3	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.2	4.3	4.9	*5.2
	Marketing year ¹			1977			1978			1979
	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-May p
Corn:										
Stocks, beginning (mil. bu.)	361	399	884	884	5,503	3,877	2,837	1,104	6,199	4,421
Domestic use:										
Feed (mil. bu.)	3,592	3,587	3,697	1,266	1,083	568	792	1,397	1,223	—
Food, seed, ind. (mil. bu.)	490	513	548	123	129	192	197	137	130	—
Feed grains:³										
Stocks, beginning (mil. metric tons)	15.3	17.2	29.9	43.4	170.9	120.3	88.4	52.7	190.3	135.1
Domestic use:										
Feed (mil. metric tons)	116.1	112.6	117.0	39.1	33.8	17.4	27.0	44.0	38.3	—
Food, seed, ind. (mil. metric tons)	17.1	17.9	18.8	4.1	4.4	4.0	6.5	4.6	4.5	—

¹ Beginning October 1 for corn and sorghum; June 1 for oats and barley. ² No. 3 or better, 65% or better plump beginning October 1977. ³ Aggregated data for corn, sorghum, oats, and barley. *Based on Inspections for Export. p Preliminary.

Food grains:

	Marketing year ¹			1978			1979			
	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Wholesale prices:										
Wheat, No. 1 HRW, Kansas City (\$/bu.) ²	3.74	2.88	2.72	3.21	3.48	3.39	3.42	3.50	3.52	3.53
Wheat, DNS, Minneapolis (\$/bu.) ²	3.74	2.96	2.66	3.08	3.32	3.15	3.12	3.12	3.18	3.29
Flour, Kansas City (\$/cwt.)	9.25	7.21	6.60	8.25	7.92	7.79	7.55	7.78	8.18	8.12
Flour, Minneapolis (\$/cwt.)	10.41	8.34	7.34	8.64	8.40	8.14	7.81	8.04	8.31	8.30
Rice, S.W. La. (\$/cwt.) ²	17.20	14.60	21.30	23.50	16.25	16.40	16.30	16.75	18.60	21.50
Wheat:										
Exports (mil. bu.)	1,173	950	1,124	111	95	93	73	72	80	—
Mill grind (mil. bu.)	601	628	616	55	53	49	51	48	52	—
Wheat flour production (mil. cwt.)	258	275	276	26	24	22	23	22	23	—

	Marketing year ¹			1977		1978				1979
	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Wheat:										
Stocks, beginning (mil. bu.)	435	665	1,112	1,112	2,400	1,994	1,528	1,177	2,137	1,632
Domestic use:										
Food (mil. bu.)	588	588	586	193	154	146	94	192	154	147
Feed and seed (mil. bu.) ⁴	134	160	264	177	28	42	19	154	43	37
Exports (mil. bu.)	1,173	950	1,124	382	225	279	238	493	309	224

¹ Beginning June 1 for wheat and August 1 for rice. ² Ordinary protein. ³ Long-grain, milled basis. ⁴ Feed use approximated by residual.

Vegetables:

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Wholesale Prices:										
Potatoes, white, f.o.b. East (\$/cwt.)	5.90	5.52	5.20	4.67	4.50	4.46	5.02	4.95	5.29	5.50
Iceberg lettuce (\$/cwt.) ¹	3.57	3.23	5.10	9.77	4.07	5.92	9.10	10.20	5.92	5.82
Tomatoes (\$/cwt.) ²	6.44	7.21	6.65	11.89	6.94	6.00	8.34	8.39	9.57	11.40
Wholesale price index, 10 canned										
veg. (1967=100)	160	170	175	166	186	186	186	188	190	190
Grower price index, fresh commercial										
veg. (1967=100)	173	197	212	296	180	213	265	299	255	240

¹ Std. carton 24's, f.o.b. shipping point. ² 2 layers, 5 x 6-6 x 6, f.o.b. Fla.-Cal.

Fruit:

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Wholesale Price indexes:										
Fresh fruit (1967=100)	160.4	177.5	217.6	200.1	230.5	219.7	201.0	219.9	226.4	238.0
Dried fruit (1967=100)	234.9	338.4	355.3	285.1	574.3	575.4	579.3	579.7	578.6	578.6
Canned fruit and juice (1967=100)	174.4	190.4	213.9	205.7	227.9	231.2	231.7	233.1	234.3	236.3
Frozen fruit and juice (1967=100)	156.2	196.5	232.0	229.9	238.7	246.2	246.2	246.4	246.4	246.5
F.o.b. shipping point prices:										
Apples, Yakima Valley (\$/cwt.) ^{1, 2}	7.46	9.11	n.a.	n.a.	9.96	10.00	10.13	10.25	10.80	10.50
Pears, Yakima Valley (\$/box) ^{1, 2}	7.35	6.94	n.a.	14.83	9.00	9.00	9.13	10.11	10.66	13.40
Oranges, U.S. avg. (\$/box)	6.72	7.44	10.72	9.54	11.23	11.63	12.23	12.92	12.59	11.98
Grapefruit, U.S. avg. (\$/box)	5.76	6.27	6.46	5.68	6.91	6.22	6.56	6.96	7.32	7.87
Stocks, beginning:										
Fresh apples (mil. lb.)	2,569.3	2,249.0	2,138.0	751.6	3,449.2	3,225.8	2,596.6	2,061.7	1,535.2	1,052.7
Fresh pears (mil. lb.)	162.3	211.6	162.1	23.3	280.2	228.1	195.3	133.7	83.9	49.2
Frozen fruit (mil. lb.)	658.3	638.9	607.8	465.2	600.6	547.0	518.0	481.0	454.1	397.8
Frozen fruit juices (mil. lb.)	967.0	844.1	613.0	871.6	704.6	580.7	714.0	1,000.4	1,255.7	1,278.6

¹ Red Delicious, Washington extra fancy, carton tray pack, 80-125's. ² D'Anjou pears, Washington wrapped, U.S. No. 1, 90-135's. ³ Control atmosphere. ⁴ Stocks as of January 1 of year listed. n.a.=not available.

Cotton:

	Marketing Year ¹			1978			1979			
	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
U.S. price, SLM, 1-1/16 in. (cts./lb.) ²	58.0	70.9	52.7	54.7	65.7	64.4	61.5	60.6	58.7	58.1
Northern Europe prices										
Index (cts./lb.) ³	65.3	81.7	70.6	69.3	79.4	79.2	77.0	76.1	75.3	73.5
U.S., SM 1-1/16 in. (cts./lb.) ⁴	71.4	82.4	66.0	69.4	79.4	79.3	76.0	75.3	74.3	72.9
U.S. mill consumption (thou. bales)	7,227.7	6,674.4	6,462.5	505.3	618.4	452.7	627.8	490.2	526.5	—
Exports (thou. bales)	3,311.3	4,783.6	5,484.1	672.9	374.3	489.6	544.2	609.7	605.7	—

¹ Beginning August 1. ² Average spot market. ³ Liverpool Outlook "A" index; average of five lowest priced of 10 selected growths. ⁴ Memphis territory growths.

Fats and oils:

	Marketing year ¹			1978			1979			
	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Soybeans:										
Wholesale price, No. 1 yellow, Chicago (\$/bu.)	5.25	7.36	6.11	6.81	6.66	67.9	6.85	7.28	7.47	7.31
Crushings (mil. bu.)	865.1	790.2	927.7	80.1	89.6	96.4	90.6	81.5	89.0	85.0
Processing margin (\$/bu.) ²	.16	.19	.29	.14	.25	.43	.32	.32	.16	—
Exports (mil. bu.)	555.1	564.1	723.4	72.7	101.7	70.6	77.0	53.2	83.5	—
Soybean oil:										
Wholesale price, crude, Decatur (cts./lb.)	18.3	23.9	23.8	26.8	24.9	25.8	25.8	27.3	26.9	26.8
Production (mil. lb.)	9,629.8	8,577.9	10,291.4	866.9	974.8	1,050.4	989.1	902.3	981.7	—
Domestic disappearance (mil. lb.)	7,906.1	7,454.4	8,192.4	610.5	779.9	720.0	781.5	631.8	716.8	—
Exports (mil. lb.)	975.8	1,547.5	2,137.1	238.0	171.2	196.9	232.2	277.9	206.5	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	560.6	1,250.6	766.6	803.8	813.4	837.1	970.6	932.2	942.8	1,001.3
Soybean meal:										
Wholesale price, 44% protein, Decatur (\$/ton)	147.77	199.80	161.87	173.00	177.10	188.75	184.90	190.90	194.60	190.65
Production (thou. ton)	20,754.2	18,488.1	22,398.9	1,903.3	2,099.2	2,292.2	2,158.3	1,954.8	2,121.5	—
Domestic disappearance (thou. ton)	15,551.6	14,000.8	16,287.2	1,163.1	1,625.3	1,470.5	2,025.6	1,436.1	1,205.1	—
Exports (thou. ton)	5,144.8	4,559.2	7,542.7	661.8	507.5	738.5	658.9	526.5	903.7	—
Stocks, beginning (thou. ton)	358.3	354.9	228.3	227.3	239.5	205.9	289.1	242.2	225.0	237.7
Margarine, wholesale price, Chicago (cts./lb.)	37.9	31.4	39.1	41.7	48.4	46.5	48.4	49.7	50.5	50.5

¹ Beginning September 1 for soybeans; October 1 for soy meal and oil; calendar year 1974, 1975, and 1976 for margarine. ² Spot basis, Illinois shipping points.

Sugar:

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Wholesale price, N.Y. (\$/cwt.) ¹	13.31	³ 10.99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
U.S. deliveries (thou. short tons) ^{1 2}	10,856	11,207	10,841	861	849	840	835	771	⁴ 998	⁴ 820

¹ Raw value. ² Excludes Hawaii. ³ Ten month average. ⁴ Preliminary.

Tobacco:

	Annual			1978			1979		
	1976	1977	1978	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Prices at auctions:									
Flue-cured (cts./lb.) ¹	110.4	117.6	135.0	n.a.	124.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Burley (cts./lb.) ¹	114.2	120.0	131.0	115.5	132.8	131.2	129.2	126.0	123.0
Domestic consumption²									
Cigarettes (bil.)	617.9	592.0	³ 614.2	55.3	53.7	42.1	55.5	48.6	n.a.
Large cigars (mil.)	5,265	4,880	³ 4,700	424.4	408.7	352.7	251.2	336.9	n.a.

¹ Crop year July-June for flue-cured, October-September for burley. ² Taxable removals. ³ Subject to revision. n.a. not available.

Coffee:

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978 p	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr. p
Composite green price, N.Y. (cts./lb.)	142.48	256.38	162.32	166.78	151.87	142.66	139.42	130.61	135.55	142.60
Imports, green bean equivalent (mil. lb.) ¹	2,717	1,974	2,448	218	234	228	249	186	232	*200
	Annual			1977	1978			1979		
	1976	1977	1978	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June
Roastings (mil. lb.) ²	2,519	1,892	2,156	522	591	470	500	595	616	*500

¹ Green and processed coffee. ² Instant soluble and roasted coffee. p Preliminary. *Forecast.

General Economic Data

Gross national product and related data

	Annual			1977				1978				1979
	1976	1977	1978	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	
\$ Bil. (Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates)												
Gross national product ¹	1,700.1	1,887.2	2,107.6	1,867.0	1,916.8	1,958.1	1,992.0	2,087.5	2,136.1	2,214.8	2,264.8	
Personal consumption expenditures	1,090.2	1,206.5	1,340.1	1,188.6	1,214.5	1,255.2	1,276.7	1,322.9	1,356.9	1,403.9	1,440.4	
Durable goods	156.6	178.4	197.6	175.6	177.4	187.2	183.5	197.8	199.5	209.1	211.4	
Nondurable goods	442.6	479.0	526.5	473.6	479.7	496.9	501.4	519.3	531.7	553.4	567.9	
Clothing and shoes	75.7	81.5	89.0	79.3	81.4	86.7	82.9	87.5	90.5	95.3	93.6	
Food and beverages	225.8	245.2	269.4	244.5	246.4	252.6	257.7	267.8	272.0	279.9	289.7	
Services	491.0	549.2	616.2	539.4	557.5	571.1	591.8	605.8	625.8	641.4	661.0	
Gross private domestic investment	243.0	297.8	345.6	295.6	309.7	313.5	322.7	345.4	350.1	364.0	371.1	
Fixed investment	232.8	282.3	329.6	278.6	287.8	300.5	306.0	325.3	336.5	350.5	354.5	
Nonresidential	164.6	190.4	222.6	187.2	193.5	200.3	205.6	220.1	227.5	237.1	244.1	
Residential	68.2	91.9	107.0	91.4	94.3	100.2	100.3	105.3	109.0	113.4	110.4	
Change in business inventories	10.2	15.6	16.0	17.0	21.9	13.1	16.7	20.1	13.6	13.5	16.6	
Net exports of goods and services	7.4	-11.1	-12.0	-5.9	-7.0	-23.2	-24.1	-5.5	-10.7	-7.6	-5.3	
Exports	163.2	175.5	204.8	178.1	180.8	172.1	181.7	205.4	210.1	221.9	233.8	
Imports	155.7	186.6	216.8	184.0	187.8	195.2	205.8	210.9	220.8	229.5	239.0	
Government purchases of goods and services	359.5	394.0	433.9	388.8	399.5	412.5	416.7	424.7	439.8	454.5	458.5	
Federal	129.9	145.1	153.8	142.9	146.8	152.2	151.5	147.2	154.0	162.5	164.5	
State and local	229.8	248.9	280.2	245.9	252.7	260.3	265.2	277.6	285.8	292.0	294.0	
1972 \$ Bil. (Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates)												
Gross national product	1,271.0	1,332.7	1,385.7	1,325.5	1,343.9	1,354.5	1,354.2	1,382.6	1,391.4	1,414.7	1,416.3	
Personal consumption expenditures	819.4	857.7	891.7	849.5	858.0	876.6	873.5	886.3	895.1	911.8	912.4	
Durable goods	125.9	137.8	144.6	136.2	136.9	143.0	137.8	145.8	144.8	150.1	148.6	
Nondurable goods	320.2	330.4	339.6	327.2	329.2	338.1	333.3	336.3	340.4	348.5	345.4	
Clothing and shoes	64.2	66.6	70.9	65.1	66.2	70.2	66.8	69.5	71.8	75.2	73.7	
Food and beverages	158.8	165.1	165.4	164.7	164.9	167.6	165.6	164.7	164.8	166.4	165.3	
Services	373.2	389.5	407.4	386.0	391.8	395.6	402.4	404.2	410.0	413.1	418.4	
Gross private domestic investment	173.4	196.3	210.6	197.1	201.7	200.3	205.7	213.1	210.4	213.4	215.7	
Fixed investment	166.8	187.4	200.1	187.1	189.5	192.8	193.4	200.4	201.4	205.2	204.5	
Nonresidential	118.9	129.8	140.2	129.1	130.8	132.5	133.8	140.5	141.7	144.9	146.8	
Residential	47.8	57.7	59.8	58.0	58.8	60.3	59.5	59.9	59.7	60.3	57.7	
Change in business inventories	6.7	8.9	10.6	10.0	12.2	7.5	12.3	12.7	9.0	8.2	11.2	
Net exports of goods and services	15.4	9.5	8.4	11.0	12.5	3.1	2.9	11.3	9.2	10.2	11.7	
Exports	95.9	98.2	107.0	98.9	100.8	96.0	99.1	108.4	109.0	111.7	114.7	
Imports	80.5	88.7	98.6	87.9	88.2	92.9	96.2	97.1	99.7	101.5	103.0	
Government purchases of goods and services	262.8	269.2	275.0	267.9	271.7	274.5	272.1	271.9	276.7	279.4	276.4	
Federal	96.6	101.6	100.3	101.3	102.9	103.6	101.2	97.1	100.4	102.5	102.0	
State and local	166.2	167.6	174.7	166.6	168.8	170.9	170.8	174.8	176.3	176.9	174.5	
New plant and equipment expenditures (\$ bil.)	120.49	135.80	153.09	134.24	140.38	138.11	144.25	150.76	155.41	163.96	164.23	
Implicit price deflator for GNP (1972=100)	133.76	141.81	152.09	140.86	142.63	144.56	147.10	150.98	153.52	156.56	159.91	
Disposable income (\$bil.)	1,184.4	1,303.0	1,451.8	1,285.3	1,319.1	1,359.6	1,391.6	1,433.3	1,468.4	1,513.9	1,553.2	
Disposable income (1972 \$bil.)	890.1	926.3	966.1	918.6	931.9	949.6	952.1	960.3	968.7	983.2	990.2	
Per capita disposable income (\$)	5,504	6,009	6,643	5,934	6,077	6,250	6,387	6,566	6,712	6,906	7,117	
Per capita disposable income (1972 \$)	4,136	4,271	4,421	4,241	4,293	4,365	4,370	4,399	4,428	4,485	4,508	
U.S. population, tot. incl. military abroad (mil.)	215.1	216.8	218.5	216.6	217.1	217.5	217.9	218.3	218.8	219.2	219.6	
Civilian population (mil.)	213.0	214.7	216.4	214.5	214.9	215.4	215.8	216.2	216.6	217.1	217.5	

See footnotes at end of next table.

Selected monthly indicators

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Monthly data seasonally adjusted except as noted										
Industrial production, total ¹ (1967=100)	129.8	137.1	145.2	143.2	149.5	150.8p	150.8	151.0p	152.0p	150.5p
Manufacturing (1967=100)	129.5	137.1	145.6	143.5	150.4	151.8p	151.9	152.0p	152.9p	151.3p
Durable (1967=100)	121.7	129.5	139.3	136.9	144.9	146.5p	146.0	146.1p	147.4p	144.4p
Nondurable (1967=100)	140.9	148.1	154.8	153.2	158.4	159.4p	160.4	160.4p	161.2p	161.2p
Leading economic indicators ¹ (1967=100)	128.8	136.4	141.9	135.6	143.2	143.7	143.2	142.1p	143.5p	138.7p
Employment ⁴ (Mil. persons)	87.5	90.5	94.4	93.8	95.8	95.9	96.3	96.6	96.8	96.2
Unemployment rate ⁴ (%)	7.7	7.0	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.8
Personal income ¹ (\$bil. annual rate)	1,380.9	1,529.0	1,708.0	1,669.4	1,785.6	1,811.6p	1,819.0	1,833.3	1,855.8	1,861.8p
Hourly earnings in manufacturing ⁴ (\$/hr.)	6.22	5.67	6.17	5.99	6.38	6.47	6.49	6.52	6.55p	6.53p
Money stock (daily average) ² (\$bil.)	\$313.5	\$338.7	\$361.5	348.5	361.0	361.5	359.9	368.8	359.0p	363.2p
Time and savings deposits (daily average) ² (\$bil.)	\$489.7	\$544.4	\$611.4	565.2	608.8	611.4	616.0	620.4	619.7p	620.6p
Three-month Treasury bill rate ³ (%)	4.989	5.265	7.221	6.306	8.787	9.122	9.351	9.265	9.457p	9.493p
Aaa corporate bond yield (Moody's) ⁵ (%)	8.43	8.02	8.73	8.56	9.03	9.16	9.25	9.26p	9.37	9.37p
Interest rate on new home mortgages ⁶ (%)	8.99	9.01	9.54	9.30	9.87	10.02	10.18	10.20	10.30p	10.34p
Housing starts, private (including farm) (thou.)	1,537.5	1,987.1	2,020.3	2,165	2,107	2,074	1,697	1,381p	1,786p	1,749p
Auto sales at retail, total ¹ (mil.)	10.1	11.2	11.3	12.5	11.0	11.2	11.0	11.4	12.6	11.1p
Business sales, total ¹ (\$bil.)	200.8	223.8	254.7	250.5	270.1	273.8	273.2	275.3	285.9p	—
Business inventories, total ¹ (\$bil.)	309.2	334.8	379.4	350.6	376.6	379.4	383.9	387.4	392.3p	—
Sales of all retail stores (\$bil.) ⁷	54.8	60.3	66.6	65.1	70.1	70.9	70.9	71.1	71.9	72.2p
Durable goods stores (\$bil.)	18.1	20.7	23.2	22.6	25.0	25.2	25.3	25.0	25.4p	25.3p
Nondurable goods stores (\$bil.)	36.5	39.1	43.4	42.5	45.2	45.8	45.6	46.1	46.5p	46.9p
Food stores (\$bil.)	12.3	13.2	14.5	14.3	15.1	15.3	15.7	15.6	15.6p	15.8p
Eating and drinking places (\$bil.)	4.8	5.3	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.0	6.3	6.5p	6.5p
Apparel and accessory stores (\$bil.)	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.4p	3.4p

¹ Department of Commerce. ² Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. ³ Composite index of 12 leading indicators. ⁴ Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ⁵ Not seasonally adjusted. ⁶ December of the year listed. ⁷ Moody's Investors Service. ⁸ Federal Home Loan Bank Board. ⁹ Adjusted for seasonal variations, holidays, and trading day differences. p. Preliminary.

U.S. Agricultural Trade

Prices of principal U.S. agricultural trade products

	Annual			1978			1979			
	1976	1977	1978	Apr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Export commodities:										
Wheat, f.o.b. vessel, Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	3.65	2.85	3.56	3.67	3.84	3.78	3.81	3.93	3.88	3.85
Corn, f.o.b. vessel, Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	2.91	2.49	2.66	3.04	2.59	2.58	2.76	2.78	2.84	2.89
Grain sorghum, f.o.b. vessel, Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	2.73	2.30	2.48	2.72	2.51	2.51	2.54	2.55	2.56	2.56
Soybeans, f.o.b. vessel, Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	6.07	7.38	7.04	7.54	6.97	7.13	7.40	7.77	7.98	7.74
Soybean oil, Decatur (cts./lb.)	18.05	23.69	25.79	26.80	24.91	25.84	25.76	27.30	26.90	26.83
Soybean meal, Decatur (\$/ton)	155.82	192.17	170.71	173.00	177.10	188.75	184.90	190.90	194.60	190.64
Cotton, 10 market avg. spot (cts./lb.)	87.70	60.48	58.31	54.72	65.65	64.39	61.48	60.59	58.70	58.05
Tobacco, avg. price of auction (cts./lb.)	105.73	114.24	121.74	117.00	128.20	129.20	130.40	129.20	128.80	130.20
Rice, f.o.b. mill, Houston (\$/cwt.)	16.17	16.96	20.61	23.25	16.20	16.35	16.30	16.60	18.20	21.00
Inedible tallow, Chicago (cts./lb.)	14.98	17.13	19.74	15.75	22.22	20.33	21.70	22.70	25.60	n.a.
Import commodities:										
Coffee, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	1.42	2.41	1.66	1.72	1.50	1.40	1.35	1.28	1.31	1.39
Sugar, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	13.31	10.99	13.92	15.82	14.23	14.25	14.63	15.31	15.53	14.30
Cow meat, f.o.b. port of entry (cts./lb.)	71.69	68.42	97.17	101.50	109.75	116.56	127.93	133.22	137.50	143.00
Rubber, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	39.59	41.59	50.19	44.30	58.97	55.70	54.60	57.59	63.00	66.90
Cocoa beans, N.Y. (\$/lb.) .....	.94	1.72	1.53	1.53	1.80	1.75	1.63	1.56	1.49	1.43
Bananas, f.o.b. port of entry (\$/40-lb. box)	4.67	6.01	5.20	6.61	4.85	5.32	4.98	5.63	5.73	6.63
Canned Danish hams, ex-warehouse N.Y. (\$/lb.) ..	1.75	1.85	2.02	1.94	2.17	2.09	2.09	2.09	2.09	2.09
Quantity Indices										
Export (1967=100)	174	177	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Import (1967=100)	138	138	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Unit Value Indices										
Export (1967=100)	207	210	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Import (1967=100)	217	235	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

n.a. not available.

U.S. agricultural exports

	October-March				March			
	1977/78	1978/79	1977/78	1978/79	1977	1978	1977	1978
	Thou. units		\$ Thou.		Thou. units		\$ Thou.	
Animals live, excl. poultry	—	—	55,534	75,311	—	—	6,280	7,482
Meat and preps., excl. poultry (mt)	203	199	313,111	405,525	31	33	54,267	71,141
Dairy products, excl. eggs	—	—	74,388	52,088	—	—	12,899	9,744
Poultry and poultry products	—	—	169,014	184,214	—	—	33,537	35,208
Grains and preparations	—	—	4,441,023	5,206,493	—	—	913,487	425,075
Wheat and wheat flour (mt)	13,395	14,207	1,561,077	1,976,038	2,959	2,123	359,981	303,539
Rice, milled (mt)	860	1,035	323,363	412,372	124	209	55,580	67,838
Feed grains (mt)	24,559	25,272	2,396,256	2,640,648	4,582	4,856	473,533	525,774
Other	—	—	160,327	177,435	—	—	24,393	27,924
Fruits, nuts, and preparations	—	—	623,061	752,725	—	—	103,385	121,136
Vegetables and preparations	—	—	302,506	393,399	—	—	58,172	68,147
Sugar and preps., incl. honey	—	—	35,528	34,650	—	—	6,840	7,559
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, etc. (mt)	28	40	86,053	132,124	5	6	18,611	22,166
Feeds and fodders	—	—	832,264	1,110,662	—	—	187,176	247,917
Protein meal (mt)	2,906	3,640	565,295	787,671	671	828	135,427	186,656
Beverages, incl. distilled alcoholic (hl)	187	237	7,481	9,073	52	90	2,003	3,235
Tobacco, unmanufactured (mt)	161	188	661,720	852,853	35	26	137,529	118,697
Hides, skins, and furskins	—	—	424,130	683,947	—	—	99,563	151,553
Oilseeds	—	—	2,709,443	3,742,291	—	—	465,773	654,648
Soybeans (mt)	10,776	12,886	2,411,926	3,376,524	1,811	2,273	431,498	644,115
Wool, unmanufactured (mt)	2	1	13,597	16,410	(¹)	(¹)	2,413	3,209
Cotton, unmanufactured (mt)	645	664	818,230	913,869	170	136	205,853	189,473
Fats, oils, and greases (mt)	650	687	267,081	352,085	103	125	43,563	66,738
Vegetable oils and waxes (mt)	743	808	443,099	549,866	172	154	105,291	109,356
Rubber and allied gums (mt)	7	8	9,015	9,068	1	1	1,219	1,504
Other	—	—	349,929	399,692	—	—	61,540	63,372
Total	—	—	12,636,207	15,876,345	—	—	2,519,401	2,877,260

¹ Less than 500. NOTE: 1 metric ton (mt) = 2,204.622 lb.; 1 hectoliter (hl) = 100 liters = 26.42008 gal.

U.S. agricultural exports by regions

Region ¹	October-March		March		Change from year-earlier	
	1977/78	1978/79	1977	1978	Oct-Mar 1978	March 1978
	\$ Mil.				Pct.	
Western Europe	4,465	5,420	784	978	+21	+25
Enlarged European Community	3,441	4,232	587	792	+23	+35
Other Western Europe	1,024	1,188	197	186	+16	-6
Eastern Europe and USSR	1,113	1,111	283	314	—	+11
USSR	725	562	187	189	-22	+1
Eastern Europe	389	549	96	125	+41	+30
Asia	4,352	5,914	938	1,075	+36	+15
West Asia	520	703	118	117	+35	-1
South Asia	254	335	90	54	+32	-40
East and Southeast Asia, ex. Japan and China	1,356	1,703	294	331	+26	+13
Japan	2,103	2,634	403	495	+25	+23
China	118	539	32	77	+357	+141
Latin America and Caribbean	1,082	1,609	206	229	+49	+11
Brazil	131	235	33	28	+79	-15
Mexico	260	487	37	52	+87	+41
Canada, excluding transshipments	713	833	121	139	+17	+15
Canadian transshipments	131	193	1	(²)	+47	—
Africa	700	712	174	132	+2	-24
North Africa	414	378	107	93	-9	-13
Other Africa	286	334	66	39	+17	-41
Oceania	80	84	13	11	+5	-15
Total ²	12,636	15,876	2,520	2,878	+26	+14

¹ Not adjusted for transshipments. ² Totals may not add due to rounding.

U.S. agricultural imports

	October-March				March			
	1977/78	1978/79	1977/78	1978/79	1978	1979	1978	1979
	Thou. units		\$ Thou.		Thou. units		\$ Thou.	
Animals, live, excl. poultry	—	—	181,669	230,766	—	—	30,083	21,284
Meat and preps., excl. poultry (mt)	404	528	682,245	1,206,977	83	97	149,242	243,367
Beef and veal	321	428	429,563	910,376	65	79	92,740	191,342
Pork	71	84	229,119	258,533	16 ¹	15	51,758	44,401
Dairy products, excl. eggs	—	—	174,173	187,523	—	—	28,815	21,164
Poultry and poultry products	—	—	429,863	15,796	—	—	9,470	3,005
Grains and preparations	—	—	84,369	110,108	—	—	16,314	19,537
Wheat and flour	(¹)	(¹)	65	153	(¹)	(¹)	19	56
Rice	(¹)	(¹)	536	694	(¹)	(¹)	67	53
Feed grains	104	103	10,986	11,902	13	23	1,480	2,753
Dther	—	—	72,782	97,359	—	—	14,778	16,675
Fruits, nuts, and preparations	—	—	439,261	597,741	—	—	76,308	116,712
Bananas, fresh	1,045	1,143	150,237	181,652	146	211	21,977	35,205
Vegetables and preparations	—	—	418,009	425,864	—	—	99,028	99,119
Sugar and preparations, incl. honey	—	—	546,350	438,563	—	—	61,091	73,636
Sugar, cane or beet (mt)	2,396	1,757	470,043	336,819	191	254	43,769	52,373
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, etc. (mt)	728	909	2,779,444	2,850,164	171	145	616,120	437,096
Coffee, green (mt)	475	598	1,868,911	1,786,915	102	98	383,583	282,365
Cocoa beans (mt)	87	125	309,535	424,119	28	15	92,323	51,458
Feeds and fodders	—	—	33,168	39,243	—	—	6,161	8,135
Protein meat (mt)	4	5	760	889	(¹)	2	78	462
Beverages, incl. distilled alcoholic (hl)	2,546	3,556	269,265	418,842	511	677	53,871	75,118
Tobacco, unmanufactured (mt)	69	81	169,752	193,054	13	13	29,997	32,573
Hides, skins, and furskins	—	—	120,888	147,483	—	—	37,687	36,587
Oilseeds	—	—	24,702	26,112	—	—	4,155	5,967
Soybeans (mt)	(¹)	(¹)	26,605	17,624	(¹)	(¹)	19,014	15,536
Wool, unmanufactured (mt)	11	15	32,724	44,661	3	2	8,550	7,502
Cotton, unmanufactured (mt)	5	8	2,449	2,892	1	1	313	815
Fats, oils, and greases (mt)	4	4	2,227	2,550	1	1	498	432
Vegetable oils and waxes (mt)	461	421	209,605	307,706	80	65	44,203	52,380
Rubber and allied gums (mt)	363	390	305,076	409,696	73	74	62,539	82,226
Other	—	—	294,937	312,643	—	—	59,182	51,906
Total	—	—	6,814,119	7,968,389	—	—	1,393,657	1,388,561

¹ Less than 50,000. NOTE: 1 metric ton (mt) = 2,204.622 lb.; 1 hectoliter (hl) = 100 liters = 26.42008 gal.

Trade balance

	October-March		March	
	1977/78	1978/79	1978	1979
\$ Mil.				
Agricultural exports ¹	12,635	15,876	2,519	2,877
Nonagricultural exports ²	47,827	64,117	9,312	12,421
Total exports ²	60,462	79,993	11,831	15,298
Agricultural imports ³	6,817	7,968	1,394	1,389
Nonagricultural imports ⁴	72,490	83,074	13,289	14,468
Total imports ⁴	79,307	91,042	14,683	15,857
Agricultural trade balance	5,818	7,908	1,125	1,488
Nonagricultural trade balance	-24,663	-18,957	-3,977	-2,047
Total trade balance	-18,845	-11,049	-2,852	-559

¹ Domestic exports (F.A.S. value). ² Domestic and foreign exports excluding Department of Defense grant-aid shipments, (F.A.S. value). ³ Imports for consumption (customs value). ⁴ General imports, (customs value).

World Agricultural Production

World supply and utilization of major crops

	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	1978/79	1979/80 ¹	
				Mil. units		Alt. I*	Alt. II*
Wheat:							
Area (hectare)	219.9	225.0	232.5	225.9	226.0	—	—
Production (metric ton)	357.2	350.1	415.1	381.8	437.0	429	395
Exports (metric ton)	68.1	73.7	70.2	75.3	81.0	74	84
Consumption (metric ton) ² . . .	363.3	350.3	379.7	395.6	416.4	431	411
Ending stocks (metric ton) ³ . .	63.2	63.0	98.4	84.6	105.2	104	90
Coarse grains:							
Area (hectare)	341.7	350.0	352.9	353.1	352.8	—	—
Production (metric ton)	627.9	644.7	703.4	697.5	741.6	737	693
Exports (metric ton)	69.0	87.8	88.7	94.3	97.6	97	105
Consumption (metric ton) ² . . .	632.6	646.2	683.5	687.9	725.6	755	723
Ending stocks (metric ton) ³ . .	58.0	56.3	76.2	85.8	101.7	84	72
Rice, rough:							
Area (hectare)	138.0	143.1	140.9	143.4	145.1	n.a.	n.a.
Production (metric ton)	336.8	360.6	349.8	367.2	371.4	n.a.	n.a.
Exports (metric ton)	11.0	11.9	15.3	13.8	15.3	n.a.	n.a.
Consumption (metric ton) ² . . .	336.7	352.4	351.9	360.4	365.6	n.a.	n.a.
Ending stocks (metric ton) ³ . .	18.2	26.4	24.3	31.1	36.9	n.a.	n.a.
Total grains:							
Area (hectare)	699.6	718.1	726.3	722.4	723.9	n.a.	n.a.
Production (metric ton)	1,321.9	1,355.4	1,468.3	1,446.5	1,550.0	n.a.	n.a.
Exports (metric ton)	148.1	173.4	174.2	183.4	193.9	n.a.	n.a.
Consumption (metric ton) ² . . .	1,332.6	1,348.9	1,415.1	1,443.9	1,507.6	n.a.	n.a.
Ending stocks (metric ton) ³ . .	139.4	145.7	198.9	201.5	243.8	n.a.	n.a.
Oilseeds and meals:^{4, 5}							
Production (metric ton)	64.3	72.8	66.4	78.8	83.2	94.6	82.9
Trade (metric ton)	27.5	33.6	33.6	38.4	41.4	46.0	41.0
Fats and oils:⁵							
Production (metric ton)	46.2	49.7	47.8	52.7	54.8	59.7	55.2
Trade (metric ton)	13.8	15.8	16.4	18.1	19.2	21.0	19.0
Cotton:							
Area (hectare)	33.4	29.8	30.8	32.6	31.6	33	31
Production (bale)	64.3	53.9	57.4	63.9	59.9	65	62
Exports (bale)	17.4	19.3	17.6	19.3	20.1	18	21
Consumption (bale)	58.3	61.0	60.8	60.7	62.5	64	62
Ending stocks (bale)	31.3	24.2	21.2	24.6	21.8	23	22

¹ Forecast. ² Where stock data not available (excluding USSR), consumption includes stock changes. ³ Stocks data are based on differing marketing years and do not represent levels at a given date. Data not available for all countries; includes estimated change in USSR grain stocks but not absolute level. ⁴ Soybean meal equivalent. ⁵ Calendar year data. 1975 data corresponds with 1974/75, 1976 data with 1975/76, etc.. n.a. not available.

* Alternative I assumes generally favorable worldwide crop conditions.

** Alternative II assumes generally unfavorable worldwide crop conditions.



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